Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-176
Monday
12 September 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-176 *12 September 1988*

CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Brazzaville Conference Issues Communique 9 Sep *[AFP]* 1
Spokesman on Troop Withdrawal 1
Agreement Gives 'Hope' 1
Castro Meets National Baseball Team Members 1
Praises Players' Patriotism 1
Further on Remarks 2
Malmierca Speaks at Nonaligned Ministers Meeting 2
Zambian Minister on Cuban Role 2
Castro 'Very Sad' at DPRK Olympics Boycott *[Tokyo KYODO]* 2
Politburo Members Speak at DPRK Ceremony 3
Risquet Meets With Visiting Vietnamese Official 3
CEMA Meeting Begins in Havana 6 September 3

Dominica

Antiguan Prime Minister Meets With Charles 3

Dominican Republic

300 Haitians Arrested by Army, Deported 4

Haiti

Namphy Criticizes Constitution Drive Organizers 4
PAIN, MOP Support Pro-Constitution Campaign 5
Namphy Speaks to Port-au-Prince Street Vendors 5
Port-au-Prince Church Attacked 6, 11 Sep 6
Participation Denied 6
Sit-In 'Temporarily' Ended 6
5 Dead, 70 Injured 11 Sep *[AFP]* 6
Bazin Holds News Conference; Calls for Dialogue 7
Further Comments 7
2 Said Trying To Kill Pro-Namphy Demonstrators 8

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Party Outlines 'Policy Statements' 9

MEXICO

Salinas Officially Declared President-Elect 10
Session Begins 10
Deputies Walk Out 10
Electoral College Declaration 11
Salinas Comments 11

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Bomb Damages U.S. Linked Factory, Injures One *[ACAN]* 12
Further on Incident 12

El Salvador

Duarte Denies Report of Inability To Govern *[DIARIO LATINO 10 Sep]* 12
Medical Committee Decision Sought 13
D'Aubuisson on Death-Squad Charges, Elections 13
Army To Investigate Nicaraguan Contra Charges 14
Army Officer on Counterinsurgency Operation 15
FDR's Zamora on FMLN's Gonzalez' Statements *[EL MUNDO 7 Sep]* 15

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Talks With Rebels *[LA PRENSA LIBRE 4 Sep]* 16
Army Rejects Request for 'Urgent' Dialogue *[EFE]* 18

Honduras

Police Report Death of Peace Corps Member *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 18
Foreign Minister Attends Meeting in Manila *[Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE 6 Sep]* 19
Salvadoran Refugees Said To Seize Land, Steal *[San Salvador]* 20
Briefs 20
Japanese Aid Announced 20

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Talks, Summit 20
Managua Reports on Contra Attacks 3-7 Sep 23
EPS Chief Claims Honduran Army Aid to Contras 23
Government Arrests Mothers Committee Leader 24

Panama

Solis Willing To Hold Church-Sponsored Dialogue *[DPA]* 24
On Printing Currency 24
Restrictions on Bank Deposits Extended 6 Months
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 11 Sep] 25
Official Urges U.S. Airline Route Cancellation *[MATUTINO 9 Sep]* 25
Role in Costa Rican Factory Explosion Denied *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 11 Sep]* 26
Exiled Opposition Leaders on Crisis, Noriega *[San Jose]* 26
Columnist on U.S. Plan To Send Herrera Hassan *[CRITICA 8 Sep]* 27

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

CGT Calls General Stoppage in Buenos Aires 28
Strike Ends With Violence 28
Police Repress Rioters 28
30 People Arrested, 60 Hurt 29
CGT Calls for Another Strike 29
Government on New Strike 29
Freedom To Work Insured 29
Minister Tonelli on Strike 30
Rumors of Alleged Military "Crisis" Spread 31
Court Grants 3 Generals Due Obedience Benefit *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 9 Sep]* 31

Bolivia

Last Cabinet Reshuffle 'By Late September' *[PRESENCIA 7 Sep]* 32
Belgium Agrees To Cancel Overdue Interest *[PRESENCIA 6 Sep]* 32
Leftist Party Elects Central Committee *[EL DIARIO 3 Sep]* 33
Coca Eradication Project Put Into Effect *[EL DIARIO 7 Sep]* 33

Brazil

Sarney: Guimaraes 'Qualifies' for Presidency 33
Central Bank Announces New $200 Million Loan *[O GLOBO 8 Sep]* 34
Minister Criticizes Computer Market Policy *[O GLOBO 8 Sep]* 34
Police Arrest Protesters at Military Parade *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 8 Sep]* 34
Navy Planning To Upgrade Seacat Missile *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 9 Sep]* 35

Chile

Pinochet's Motorcade Stoned; 12 Wounded *[EFE]* 35
Car Bomb Defused Near Pinochet Speech Area *[DYN]* 35
Former Interior Minister Returns From Exile *[EFE]* 36
Foreign Observers Invited To Oversee Plebiscite 36
UN Refugees Representative Praises Exile's End 36
Police Prefect on New Orders for Exiles 36
FPMR Decrees Truce Until 'End of Plebiscite' *[EFE]* 37
FPMR Vows 'Offensive,' Pinochet's Death *[EFE]* 37
Leftists Stage Authorized Peaceful Rally *[EFE]* 37
CUT Calls for Day of Protest on 15 Sep *[EFE]* 38
Human Rights, No-Vote Supporters Demonstrate 38
Police End Demonstration *[EFE]* 38
Humanist Leader Says Electoral Service Mistaken 39
Bomb Attack Near No-Vote Command Leader's Home *[EFE]* 39
University Students Attack Finance Minister 39

Colombia

Turbay Ayala To Assume Liberal Party Leadership 39
ELN Unilaterally Declares Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 40
80 FARC Rebels Reportedly Attack Village 40

Paraguay

Argentine Radio Claims Stroessner Dead *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 40
Industry Minister Denies Stroessner's Death *[TELAM]* 40
Released From Clinic *[AFP]* 40
Ambassador Says Health Good *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 40
To Return to Office 12 Sep 41
Visits Sports Club *[AFP]* 41
Minister Reassures People About Future 41

Peru

Interior Minister Denies Reported Lootings 41
Military Delegation Leaves for Persian Gulf 42
Official Wounded in 'Terrorist Attack' 42
Antidrug Organizations To Meet in Lima *[EFE]* 42
16 Drug Traffickers Arrested; Cocaine Seized 42

Cuba

Brazzaville Conference Issues Communique 9 Sep

AB0909134188 Paris AFP in French 1246 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Brazzaville, 9 Sep (AFP)—A new quadripartite meeting on Angola and Namibia will take place "as soon as possible," the final communique, issued at the end of the Brazzaville conference, disclosed this morning. The head of the South Africa delegation, Mr Neil van Heerden, along with the Angolan and Cuban spokesman, told newsmen they agreed on the choice of Brazzaville as the location for the talks, even though the city was not mentioned in the communique.

The communique issued by the four delegations (Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States) said the participants have agreed to "adhere to the deadlines of 1 November for the implementation of UN Resolution 435 of the Security Council." The deadlines for "redeployment to the north and gradual total withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola" that were proposed during the deliberations should "be agreed upon" by the Cuban and Angolan Governments, and be included in the global negotiations, the communique added.

During the Brazzaville talks, participants "noted that the points they agreed upon during the Geneva talks were being implemented, that the South Africa forces withdrew from Angola before 1 September, and that the military joint commission for control is functioning in a satisfactory manner."

Spokesman on Troop Withdrawal

FL0909205388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1946 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The Cuban-Angolan delegation attending the talks on southwest Africa reiterated today its will to negotiate despite the fact that this is a complex, difficult, and slow process. Angola and Cuba reiterated today that all parties involved in the talks recognize the sovereignty of the two countries with regard to the decision on a timetable for the withdrawal of internationalist Cuban troops from Angolan territory.

Cuban spokesman Alcibiades Hidalgo stressed that Angola and Cuba have cooperated in the negotiations by broaching the timetable subject but noted that the parties involved also recognize that this is a sovereign matter of the two countries.

He recalled that on 1 November South Africa should begin implementing Resolution No 435 which will bring about Namibia's independence. This gives hope to the international community.

Agreement Gives 'Hope'

PA1009173888 Havana International Service in Spanish 1605 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Cuba and Angola have reiterated their willingness to continue negotiating to find a solution to the conflict in southwest Africa. The position of the two countries was announced at the conclusion in Brazzaville of the fifth round of talks between representatives of the two nations and South Africa with the mediation of the United States.

All of the parties agreed that 1 November would be the date when UN Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia would go into effect. In this regard, Cuban spokesman Alcibiades Hidalgo said this event would undoubtedly give hope to the international community. Both South Africa and the United States have recognized Cuba and Angola's right to set the date for the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from Angolan territory.

Castro Meets National Baseball Team Members

FL1009120288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro yesterday met for more than 2 hours with the Cuban baseball team, which recently returned from Italy.

Fidel expressed interest in events that occurred during the championship. He was especially interested in the details of the two games played against the United States. Fidel had a lively discussion about this with Lourdes Gurriel, undisputed hero of both games.

Fidel said: I was always confident that we would be able to tie and win those games because our ball players are truly great.

The commander in chief also stressed the skills of U.S. pitcher (Gene Abus), especially his willingness and perseverance. This is why the victory is so great, he added, because the game was against a truly good team.

Praises Players' Patriotism

FL1009160888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz has held a fraternal meeting with the members of the undefeated baseball team, which has just won the world championship in Italy. Some of the topics discussed were memorable moments during the close games, the characteristics of the strongest teams, the current level of baseball, and the high degree of technical preparation evident in the results obtained.

[Begin Castro recording] The spirit with which our athletes, our baseball teams, play is very praiseworthy. They are not seeking advantages, benefits, money,

wealth. It would be very hard to find people who are as modest, devoted, loyal, principled. They are not lured by temptation, by the desire for wealth. I feel that they are completely devoted to sports. I think of all those factors when I think of our athletes. I believe all this gives an indication of their quality.

The quality of our baseball players can be measured in many ways. It involves a number of things, not one single thing. It is not only that they are brilliant in the game they play. They are also brilliant in their pride, dignity, honor, courage; in the morals they observe at all times. I feel that they are also brilliant as revolutionaries and as patriots. You see many things coming together in this team. We salute them with few but very sincere words. We congratulate them because they deserve it. [applause] [end recording]

Further on Remarks

FL1009181488 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Report by Alexis Sotolongo]

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night held a lively meeting with the members of Cuba's world-champion baseball team. Fidel praised the combativeness, courage, and dedication of our athletes, who, he said, have written a brilliant page in the history of revolutionary sports.

[Begin Castro recording] I imagine this has left a tremendous impression on the spectators and also on the American players. They're going to have to give up the idea that they can beat us in baseball.

I think you have written a historic page in sports with (?this act) which will never be forgotten.

We don't know what will happen next. It might be three more tremendous things like this. However, things like this seem to me to be very difficult to repeat. I think it's the most spectacular thing to occur since the triumph of the revolution. [applause] [end recording]

Malmierca Speaks at Nonaligned Ministers Meeting

FL1009135688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli has said in Nicosia, at the plenary session of the nonaligned foreign ministers conference, that a long-lasting peace must be accompanied by development.

After calling on the movement to work toward the fulfillment of agreements on southwestern Africa, he recalled that the defeat of the racist regime in Pretoria marked the end of the myth of their invincibility and superiority. This also shows the world the untenable position of their war of aggression, he said.

Malmierca stressed that this action opened the way for the quadripartite talks which should help attain a negotiated solution in southwestern Africa and lead to Namibia's independence.

The ministerial summit, which should conclude today, entered a new stage when Yugoslavia decided to condition its proposal to host the ninth summit of the nonaligned countries on prior consultation with the Yugoslav parliament.

Zambian Minister on Cuban Role

FL0909023588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Speaking at the Nonaligned Movement ministerial meeting, the Zambian foreign minister expressed appreciation to Cuba for its role in a strategic change of the balance of power in southern Africa. He also said that, thanks to those efforts and the efforts of the people and government of Angola, South Africa is now not only speaking of ending its attacks on Angola but also about Namibia's independence. All this has forced the apartheid regime to negotiate, he added.

L.J. Mwananshiku also urged the United States to stop supporting the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] bandits and let the Angolan Government deal with this problem domestically.

On another matter, it was reported that with the conclusion of the 2d day of work of the Nonaligned Movement meeting, which is being held in Nicosia, a series of consultations and private negotiations will begin today among the participating countries.

Castro 'Very Sad' at DPRK Olympics Boycott

OW1009125888 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 10 Sep 88

[by Paul Eckert and William R. May]

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 10 KYODO—Cuban President Fidel Castro held out hope throughout the summer that North Korea would relent and join the Olympic Games in Seoul, the president of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) said on Saturday.

Mario Vazquez-Rana of Mexico, who made a secret trip to Pyongyang at the behest of Castro in June, also portrayed the Cuban leader as "very, very sad" when talks with North Korean leader Kim Il-song did not produce a solution.

Vazquez-Rana told KYODO NEWS SERVICE how he was urged by Castro to visit the North Korean capital early this summer when talks between Seoul and Pyongyang over the staging of the 1988 Summer Games reached a stalemate.

South Korea had already agreed to a proposal by the International Olympic Committee to allow Pyongyang to stage all or part of five sports events, while North Korea insisted that it be made an equal cohost.

The North Korean leader, by that time, had given indications that he would not receive any high-level IOC officials, but Castro assured Vazquez-Rana that "Kim Il-song wishes to speak to you."

In the course of several meetings with receptive North Korean officials and an hour-long talk with Kim, Vazquez-Rana proposed several solutions to the Seoul-Pyongyang deadlock.

The sports-related talks were very friendly, according to Vazquez-Rana, but he added that "with Kim Il-song, it was two minutes sports and 10 minutes politics."

Kim pointedly criticized what he called a "U.S.-Japan-South Korea mafia" for its attempt to isolate North Korea by conspiring to ensure that Seoul would win the bid for the 1988 games, Vazquez-Rana said.

After failing to reach an agreement with Kim, the ANOC head left Pyongyang realizing that "more than settling the dispute, Kim wanted to entertain the world with a series of proposals."

Meeting again with Castro, Vazquez-Rana said he could sense the Cuban leader's deep sadness at the failure of the talks.

Vazquez-Rana concluded that, despite political statements supporting Pyongyang, "in the bottom of their hearts, Castro and the Cuban sports people have a great desire to come to the Seoul Games."

Politburo Members Speak at DPRK Ceremony

FL0909133488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The ceremony to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the DPRK was presided over by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. The ceremony, which took place in the Universal Hall of the FAR, was attended by leaders of the PCC, state, and mass organizations, as well as the accredited diplomatic corps in Cuba. (Pak Chung-wei), the ambassador from that sister country, thanked the Cuban people for the support they have given Korea in its struggle for reunification and for organizational activities such as this meaningful date. The closing speech was given by Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes who gave a historical summary of the struggle of the Korean people and stated that our solidarity with the DPRK has had beautiful moments, among them the visit of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to Kim Il-song's nation.

Risquet Meets With Visiting Vietnamese Official

FL1009142688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, has received the Vietnamese heroine, Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party and president of the women's union and the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, who is on a friendly visit to our country.

During the cordial meeting, in accordance with the brotherhood that unites our parties and peoples, the officials discussed topics of interest related to their respective experiences in the construction of socialism, the current international political situation, and bilateral relations.

CEMA Meeting Begins in Havana 6 September

FL0709013088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The 28th meeting of directors of technical supervision and ship registration organs of CEMA member countries began at this capital's Triton Hotel this morning. The meeting began with the attendance of 11 delegations after the remarks of Romania's (Nicole Zamfir), acting director of the organization. For the Cuban part, Wilson Bolanos welcomed the participants and read a letter from Transportation Minister Diocles Torralba. The letter expresses gratitude to the organization for the help provided to Cuba allowing progress in the technique of the sphere.

Dominica

Antiguan Prime Minister Meets With Charles

FL0809234188 Bridgetown CANA in English 2258 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Sept 8, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird is sampling Dominican hospitality following his arrival here on Thursday.

Bird, who is the oldest political leader in the Caribbean, is the ninth Caribbean Community head of government to visit Dominica during its 10th year of independence. The Antiguan leader and a four-member party were met by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and other government officials and immediately hosted in the VIP lounge at Canefield Airport. He was entertained with piped indigenous jing ping music.

Bird has already begun a round of activities starting with a visit to the Carib Springs water bottling plant and a garment manufacturer.

The prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda is due to leave Dominica on Saturday afternoon following a packed morning of activities.

Dominican Republic

300 Haitians Arrested by Army, Deported

FL0909190688 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0948 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Army headquarters in Mao reports that more than 300 Haitians, who were here illegally, have been arrested by members of the national Army in the northwestern section of the Dominican Republic and repatriated to their country.

The Haitian peasants were expelled from the country by customs officials of La Jabon Province, which borders Haiti and is 295 km northeast of Santo Domingo.

The commander of the fourth brigade of the national Army headquartered in Mao, General Marcelo Victoria, confirmed that the Haitians had been arrested, but he said only those who are here illegally are being pursued. The high-level military official denied that the soldiers in charge of this mission abused the foreigners.

Haiti

Namphy Criticizes Constitution Drive Organizers

FL0909211788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We remind listeners that vaccination day [nationwide on Sunday, 11 September] coincides with the day in support of the Constitution of 1987, a day scheduled by the campaign in favor of its reinstatement. [passage omitted] A few days from 11 September, Maurepas Auguste, a member of the organizing committee for the campaign in favor of the 1987 Constitution, says he is very optimistic about the campaign. He calls on all sectors of the population to make this day a success.

[Begin Auguste recording] [Passage omitted] So, I say to you, this reaction is a democratic, a peaceful reaction. We are not asking anyone to go out into the streets and demonstrate or anything like that. We ask only that as you go to church or to the marketplace or even to get vaccinated—because, as I said, we didn't do this on purpose; we remembered the vaccination thing later, after we had already chosen the day—we ask that as you go to the movies, or wherever, you wear white. If you cannot dress all in white, wear a white shirt or blouse or something. You can even carry a white piece of paper, if you like, but show, demonstrate what you want through the use of the color white. [end recording]

The president of the military government has expressed his opinion on the campaign's initiative for the reinstatement of the Constitution he himself banned last 8 July. During a meeting yesterday evening at Port-au-Prince city hall with several hundred street vendors from downtown Port-au-Prince, General Henry Namphy severely castigated the attitude of the instigators of the movement in favor of the Constitution, firmly expressing the wish that this movement would simply be annulled.

[Begin Namphy recording] We have heard that there are people out there who need to create disorder to prevent the vaccination campaign. I truly hope they don't try it. We won't let that happen. [end recording]

The organizing committee for the campaign in favor of the Constitution of 1987 has said, in substance: It has never been our intention to obstruct the national vaccination campaign, the way the president of the military government has just accused us of wanting to do. In a press release in reaction to the general's statement, the committee says: The organizing committee thus takes formal notice of the statement made by the general-president at Port-au-Prince city hall and carried by the capital's radio stations on the morning of Friday, 9 September.

It is insinuated in that statement that the staging of our campaign is intentional to boycott the national vaccination campaign. The note adds: We have noted with stupefaction the general-president's threatening tone. It continues: We insist on stressing that it has never in any way been our intention to obstruct this nationwide vaccination campaign. On the contrary! The proof of this is that certain members of the organizing committee have volunteered their services to this vast movement, the usefulness of which they are convinced of. It is absurd to think that the simple fact that someone is wearing white can in any way prevent the day of vaccination from proceeding normally.

On the other hand, it is easy, once one possesses force, to seize any old pretext to prevent men and ideas from circulating freely or to prevent the expression of a people's discontent, the note continues. We view this position taken at Port-au-Prince city hall as a new, characteristic provocation. We refuse to follow the general-president onto this terrain. Furthermore, we feel that his statements on popular sovereignty can serve only to sow division and that they are in flagrant contradiction with his repeated wishes for a Haiti forevermore united.

The note concludes: We ask the Haitian people to remain calm. We ask international public opinion to once again serve as witness to our will to defend our Constitution of 1987 and our civic rights.

That was a note from the campaign in support of the Constitution, issued in reaction to the statements made yesterday at Port-au-Prince city hall by the president of the military government, Gen Henri Namphy.

PAIN, MOP Support Pro-Constitution Campaign

FL0709220888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On 4 August, a group of citizens, political and union leaders, and other people launched a campaign in support of the Haitian Constitution of 1987. On Monday, 5 September, during a press conference, the provisional committee of the campaign in favor of the Constitution asked the Haitian people to participate in a peaceful day in favor of keeping the Constitution of 1987. [passage omitted]

A press release from the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN] says that, faithful to its policy, which is based on the nation's Constitution and laws, PAIN unreservedly approves the democratic sector's initiative to get the Constitution of 1987, which the Haitian people massively ratified, reinstated together with proper free, honest, and open elections and a strict respect for the law, so that Haiti can embark upon the road to change and real progress. Consequently, the PAIN asks all its members and sympathizers in the country's nine geographical departments to be in solidarity with the movement in favor of the Constitution and to make 11 September become the Day of the Constitution of 1987.

Also, the democratic Movement for the Organization of the Country, MOP, which advocates political pluralism, says that it has taken notice of the call to a peaceful demonstration in support of the Constitution that the Haitian people gave themselves on 29 March 1987. MOP shares the consensus that although this constitution contains dispositions that could use a touch-up, it really is a constitution that contains the essence of the popular demands of 7 February 1986. Thus the party's executive council has no objection to MOP members showing their fondness for the Constitution of 1986 [date as heard], as long as decorum and public order are properly maintained.

Namphy Speaks to Port-au-Prince Street Vendors

FL0909215188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On Thursday, 8 September, Eng Franck Romain, mayor of Port-au-Prince, invited a delegation of Port-au-Prince street vendors to meet with the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, at 1600. The delegation was supposed to pay the Haitian president a visit at his home, but more than 1,000 street vendors gathered. Therefore, Romain called the Haitian president and asked him to come talk to the vendors at the city hall conference room. The presidential delegation arrived at city hall at 1745, and at 1800, when Gen Namphy entered the hall, all the vendors applauded and yelled: Long live Gen Henri Namphy, president of Haiti. All the vendors in the hall, without distinction—even those with their bags in their hands—filed by to greet the general. They kissed him and said a few words to him. Afterward, Gen Namphy made a speech.

[Begin Namphy recording] I had asked the mayor to invite a delegation of the town's vendors to come see me at home. When he called me this afternoon, he said it was no longer a delegation. He said it looked as if every last vendor had shown up and that he didn't have any transportation for them. What are we going to do, he asked. So I told him I'd come down and join you here. I think that by doing this, it highlights my concern with those who need help, those who need to be heard, those who need to voice their complaints and problems to an authority. I am very happy to be here, and I can see how happy you are, how satisfied you are, as you come by to greet me. Some of you told me: General, this is the first time we have ever had a chance to greet a chief of state. Look at how old I am, and this is the first time I have ever had a chance to greet a chief of state. Some of you said to me: When did a street vendor in Croix Bossales, a poor person, ever have the opportunity to greet a chief of state?

Well, the very fact that this is happening constitutes a change. You can call anything a change, you can certainly call this a change. And if anything can be called democracy, this is it, [applause] the change that everyone is demanding in every way. OK. You know what that means. It means that no one would ever have produced any results. It means that only the Haitian Army can do something, which is being done here, as you asked. The president is standing here before you. [applause]

[Words indistinct] for you vendors from all over town to be able to assemble and have the opportunity to come before the chief of state to get near him, touch him, stroke him, give him a kiss on the cheek, do everything you just did. Well, now people will not be able to come between you and me. [applause] [end recording]

Lt Gen Namphy said that this was the second time he was meeting with the vendors of Croix des Bossales. He added that after building the Salomon, Hyppolite, and Bon Repos marketplaces, the Croix des Bossales marketplace will be built. The vendors were very happy to learn that the problem of the Croix des Bossales is going to be solved. Lt Gen Namphy noted that every time Haitians need to get Haiti bad-mouthed, they go get foreigners to come take pictures of the vendors selling in the Croix des Bossales marketplace, so they can show what bad shape Haiti is in. But, said Namphy, come rain or come shine, the true sons of the black Republic of Haiti are now going to build the Croix des Bossales marketplace, one way or another.

[Begin Namphy recording] When the Croix des Bossales will have been built, we will see (?if) those so-called Haitians are going to go get foreigners to come and photograph it! That is why it is going to be a point of national pride, a source of national glory, for them to be

able to see that when the vendors of Croix des Bossales and the government and the communal authorities get together... [changes thought] It is going to be to our glory and a source of pride for us to all together, with our own means, build the Croix des Bossales marketplace. [applause] [end recording]

Lt Gen Namphy told the vendors that it was up to Haitians to solve Haitian problems, that this meant that all Haitians had to lend a hand in all the work. He also said that in 1804 the Haitian people had astonished the world by becoming independent and that in 1988 the Haitian people were again going to astonish the world by showing the world what they could do and what it was worth. But, he said, everyone had to live as brothers, in unity and peace, never fighting one another.

[Begin Namphy recording] [Passage omitted including indistinct portions] We must be able to live together to avoid hurting one another, to avoid the police having to intervene, to avoid (?criminal action) against us. When [words indistinct] you lose a day of work, and it is your households, your families, and your children who do not get the benefit of the work that (?you want to do). [end recording]

That is how the head of the military government spoke to all those Port-au-Prince street vendors with whom he met yesterday. In the last analysis, the Croix des Bossales marketplace will goddamn-well be built, said Lt Gen Namphy.

Port-au-Prince Church Attacked 6, 11 Sep

Participation Denied

FL0809213788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Since Sunday, 4 September, the young people of St Jean Bosco Church on the Grande Rue have been (?expressing) solidarity with Father (Nau) so that he won't be transferred because, they say, he is doing good work with them. On Tuesday night at around 1900, following a mass, a group of men began throwing rocks at the church. At the same time there was gunfire.

One of the young people, Claudie Pierre, who was standing on a porch, got hit in the head with a rock and is hurt. Several windows have been broken in the church. Some of the people involved were identified. They did not act alone. A red vehicle was with them. Yesterday morning still, you could see the pile of rocks this vehicle had brought and put in the street leading to the mother and child care center next to St Jean Bosco Church. In the statements the young people made to the press yesterday, they named people they know well whom they saw participating in these acts.

We received five young men yesterday evening. One of them introduced himself as Schiller. Schiller is one of the names those at St Jean Bosco gave for one of the people participating in the acts. The person who introduced himself as Schiller told us that he is a friend of Kolatcha and Elysee—two more names given during the press conference held by the young people. This Schiller acknowledged that they might have been talking about him. He denied the report that he, together with others, had thrown rocks at St Jean Bosco Friday [as heard] evening. [passage omitted] The four men with him stated that if anything were to happen to Schiller after what has just occurred—after the statements he just made—many other people would also die. [passage omitted]

Sit-In 'Temporarily' Ended

FL1009144788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The young people of St Jean Bosco yesterday put an end to the movement of protest they began on Sunday over the transfer of Father (Nau). All their protests and pressuring of Father (Nau's) hierarchical superiors, particularly Father (Desir), who is one of the people responsible for Father (Nau's) transfer, came to nothing.

They met with Father (Nau) the day before yesterday in the afternoon and discussed the transfer at length, but this too came to nothing. Thus, yesterday, the young people held a press conference to announce that they were stopping their sit-in temporarily. They said, however, that this did not mean they were abandoning the struggle.

They said they want Father (Nau) to stay. They added that they would like Father (Desir) to make up his mind to leave St Jean Bosco. Father (Desir) told them he was going to think about it.

[Begin speaker recording] Father (Desir) said that he had taken note of this and that he was going to think about it. We told him that until we learned the results of his reflections—whether or not he was leaving, with proper guarantees—we would remain firmly entrenched in our position. We said Father (Nau) was not going anywhere.

While we continue negotiating with the higher Salesian authorities we declare that we are temporarily suspending the sit-in. We take this opportunity to inform the heads of the church and the general public that pressure and repression will never be able to prevent the church of the poor from progressing along the path of the liberation of God's people. [end recording]

5 Dead, 70 Injured 11 Sep

PA1209030888 Paris AFP in Spanish 0123 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 11 Sep (AFP)—Today's attack by a band of armed men against the John Bosco Church in Port-au-Prince, where 5 people were killed and at least 70 were injured, constitutes the most serious act of bloodshed since the installation of the military regime in Haiti on 19 June.

Tonight observers are saying that this incident also has national political significance.

For many, the ferocity of the attack —a pregnant woman was disemboweled, according to the private radio station Metropole—and the impunity with which it was perpetrated brings back memories of the tragedy of the aborted elections on 29 November. At that time, 24 people were killed and 74 were injured when neo-Duvalierist bands attacked them at polling places.

The site of the recent attack also has symbolic meaning, since it occurred at the John Bosco Church run by the Salesian Order. This is the parish and stronghold of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the most politically committed church figure and staunchest foe of the Haitian military regime.

The band's savage incursion took place precisely when the priest was celebrating one of his Sunday masses, in which he often harshly attacks the regime.

The opposition was also a target of the assailants because some opposition leaders had urged the people to show their support for the 1987 Constitution by wearing white or by carrying something of that color. The regime considers that Constitution to be void.

According to witnesses, the bands of young assailants attacked people wearing white. The assailants were wearing red shirts or red bracelets. They were armed with revolvers, steel rods, and knives.

Moreover, it was learned that the main offices of the Christian Democratic and the National Industrial Agricultural Parties were looted this afternoon by unidentified unarmed people. [passage omitted]

Bazin Holds News Conference; Calls for Dialogue

FL0709215588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], held a news conference at La Belle Epoque Restaurant on Rue Gregoire in Petion-Ville yesterday morning. During this news conference, Mr Bazin again called for dialogue and for the reaching of a consensus in order to get Haiti out of the situation it is in today. He said Haiti was traversing a crisis that was simultaneously social, economic, and political.

Bazin said that he felt that dialogue was now a necessity in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Mr Bazin said that only by sitting down together at a single table to talk and see how we can get Haiti out of the situation it is in today can everything be accomplished in peace and without violence. [passage omitted]

Mr Bazin pointed out that there were basically only two ways to solve a problem. The first is dialogue and the second is confrontation.

Bazin said: We have already failed with the second: confrontation. We will not use confrontation. We will set it aside. Now we will try to use dialogue to see if we can manage to save Haiti.

Bazin said: We are asking for dialogue, but a frank, sincere, honest dialogue.

As regards the Haitian Constitution of 1987, Mr Bazin said that there are many things in it that are not good, just as there are also many beautiful articles in the text of this Constitution. Thus, in any case, this Constitution should be given a good touch-up. It can be amended because it was written at a moment when there was social disorder and political problems in Haiti. All these things contributed to the Constitution not being written as it should have been. Thus, in any case the Constitution should be touched up.

According to Marc Bazin, the MIDH's position is not to defend the entire Constitution but rather to work to save those parts that are worthy of being saved, that which is negotiable, and also to try to save everything in it that deserves to be negotiated.

According to Mr Bazin, in this connection, the CED [Committee for Democratic Accord] is working at preparing data necessary to promote dialogue so that there can be a great national debate to see to what extent Haiti can be removed from the situation it is in at present. [passage omitted]

Further Comments

FL0709222888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH, held a news conference yesterday at La Belle Epoque Restaurant in Petion-Ville on the proposal for a national dialogue and a valid economic policy. Mr Bazin once again said that he felt dialogue was the only way to get Haiti out of the abyss in which it is.

We must reach a constructive consensus with everyone making up the Haitian society today to see what can be done for Haiti, said the MIDH president.

He asserted that Haiti was in a difficult situation. On one side are solutions by force and on the other are virtuous protests—as he termed them.

Bazin continued: We just cannot remain in a situation where no group is working on the solution to a problem, where on one side there are those creating the problem and on the other are those denouncing that problem.

Regarding those who do not share his opinion, Mr Bazin said that there are people who have talked but have made no proposals.

The MIDH leader also asserted that he was in favor of a program to improve the living conditions of Haitians, especially the needy classes, those with the greatest need, those who can neither read nor write. Colette Lespinasse was at that news conference.

[Lespinasse] MIDH leader Marc Bazin thinks that only dialogue will permit us to find a way out of the current crisis. He also proposed a series of urgent solutions affecting those most in need. His 6 September news conference in Petion-Ville revolved mainly around those two points. [passage omitted]

Some people pointed out that this closely resembled the policy of the micro-projects that the military government is setting up. Marc Bazin has no problem with other people in Haiti who are undertaking a number of similar projects aimed at giving the poor some relief. [passage omitted]

But the projects also resemble the many programs of ONGs [non-governmental organizations], programs which are already on the scene to provide relief but which are not able to really effect a change. What does Mr Bazin think of this? Isn't (PACES) [not further identified], the action for economic and social development that he is talking about, just another big ONG? Listen to his answer.

[Begin Bazin recording] I don't think the solution to the economic problem lies with the ONGs. I totally agree with you there. Where I perhaps don't fully agree with you is when you see (PACES) as another ONG. Actually, (PACES) is a body that has a board of directors, and on that board of directors there are diverse representatives—representatives of the government, private sector, churches, and community service organizations. So already in its structure it differs from the ONGs because, precisely, one of the problems of the ONGs is that, although we are not really familiar with their structure, we do know that the government is not involved, the private sector is not involved, and the church is not involved. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Lespinasse] Regarding dialogue, Marc Bazin thinks that the current crisis cannot be resolved through violence. He thinks that dialogue is the only solution.

It was pointed out to him that the general had said outright that in order for someone to get on the train he had to be willing to accept the conductor's conditions. But the MIDH leader said that he himself does not know what the conductor's conditions are.

Bazin also said that the Committee for Democratic Accord was working on the matter of a national debate. He said that they have already approached the church and that they hope it is going to say what it thinks about this, but that they do not yet have a real dialogue with the government. [passage omitted]

[Begin Bazin recording] [passage omitted] Between 29 November and today, the same de facto solutions are being applied to all problems and we are sort of locked into a dead end. No one can see how to get out of this diabolical dialectic—with, on the one side, solutions through force and, on the other side, virtuous protests. What is this? [end recording]

2 Said Trying To Kill Pro-Namphy Demonstrators

FL0709160788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The tribunal in Kenscoff is today to judge Etienne Miracle and Delmas Macillon, two men arrested last Wednesday and charged with the attempted murder of some 200 or 250 people who had taken to the streets to demonstrate in favor of General Namphy, who was to have visited the Kenscoff area. We have learned that this demonstration took place in (Douet) and that the general did not even show up in Kenscoff that day.

One of the men, Delmas Macillon, was released temporarily so he could be treated, and we interviewed him.

[Begin recording] [Macillon] Well, Wednesday, at 1700, we were in the streets in the (Douet) area, and we saw a rara [not further identified] group appear, demonstrating. There was the demonstration. And since Father Zico and Origene [not further identified] are always creating panic in the area, saying that the president is coming to replace the communal magistrate. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Another guy who was with me saw them and said: Delmas, there is a rara group coming. It is going to the magistrate's. While I got on a truck to go to the magistrate's, he himself went into the crowd. [passage omitted] I got off the truck when I saw the people making a fuss. I told them: There's no need to make a fuss. Let's get off and go into the commune. When we get there, we will see the magistrate. That is where Magistrate Etienne went. And as I went down with them, the police arrested me. On Wednesday.

[Reporter] They say that you and another man were going to attack those people, that you were going to strike the demonstrators, and that you had a machete in your hand. Is there anything you would like to say about that?

[Macillon] Well, they are the ones saying it is they saying that I had a machete. I was empty-handed. And I didn't see the other guy carrying a machete either. Now I am in jail. It is they who put me in jail. It is they who can decide, according to (?their reasoning). [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You mentioned Father Zico. Has Father Zico returned to the area? And what is he doing in the area now?

[Macillon] Well, he is doing the same thing he has been doing for 10 years. We lived a little better during the 2 years he wasn't here. We were beginning to organize ourselves very normally in the area.

[Reporter] Who actually had you arrested?

[Macillon] The rara group's leaders.

[Reporter] Were you beaten while in jail?

[Macillon] No. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Who is Father Zico going along with now in the Kenscoff area?

[Macillon] With Origene, Jean—Mr Jean Gilbert—and Toto, the former director of Radio Nationale.

[Reporter] Jean Gilbert, the man who was on the CEP [Provisional Electoral Council]?

[Macillon] Yes, him. It is he who is always coming around saying that the president has sent him to Kenscoff to come and do—with Father Zico—to come and say. Yet the president never shows up. [end recording] [passage omitted]

They say that this demonstration was headed, was organized, by Father Zico, whom they say is now going along with Mr Jean Gilbert, the head of the second CEP, and with Toto, who used to read the news over Radio Nationale. According to the statements made to our reporter, it seems these men together with a certain Origene are now going along together.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Party Outlines 'Policy Statements'

FL0809020088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1652 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, Sept 7, CANA—The opposition Labour Party has launched its campaign to regain office by outlining a series of "policy statements" regarding how it will manage St Vincent and the Grenadines in the short, medium and long terms. Party leader Vincent Beache says the party is not waiting until a general election is called to spring a manifesto on the people, but would outline its plans early, in a series of statements.

Following the party's thirty third annual convention, Beache reported some of the social and economic programmes it would adopt. The opposition leader assured businessmen that the three percent traders turnover tax which was heavily criticised by businessmen when his party lost elections in 1984, will not be reintroduced. Additionally, he promised that corporation taxes would be reduced by ten percent, which he said would not to be used by corporations directly, but to fund a "profit-sharing agreement with their employees." "Corporations must make a profit, but those who help must share. So instead of forty-five percent, they will pay only thirty-five and use the balance for sharing," Beache said.

Farmers would also receive duty free concessions on vehicles imported for agricultural use.

While the basic fee charged by the Central Water and Sewerage Authority for the use of water meters, the source of much public discussion here, would be abolished. [sentence as received]

Beache also spoke of establishing consultative structures with non-governmental organisations, trade unions and professional bodies, to improve national economic planning, and wide debate of national issues. He said the party was planning for when, and not if, it won the next general elections.

Labour holds three of the 13 seats in Parliament, but two additional constituencies have since been created. "We got 41 percent of the popular vote in 1984 when there was a large swing against labour," Beache observed. "Since then we have increased our popularity...we'll form the next government."

Labour lost in by-elections since losing power, including the seat held by former party leader and ex-prime minister, Milton Cato. But Beache feels this was not a true reflection of his party's strength, since supporters did not turn out the second time around, knowing that their vote was not going to change the government.

Salinas Officially Declared President-Elect

Session Begins

PA0909215388 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Report by Danila Antuna]

[Text] Yesterday evening, the Chamber of Deputies was constituted as the Electoral College, which declared a permanent session to discuss the presidential elections.

At around 0200 today, the Government and Constitutional Affairs Commission issued its report regarding the results of the presidential elections.

[Begin deputy recording] The 6 July 1988 presidential elections are valid and legitimate. Carlos Salinas de Gortari is the constitutional president of the United Mexican States between 1 December 1988 and 30 November 1994. According to Article 87 of the Constitution, Salinas de Gortari will be sworn in before the National Congress on 1 December 1988. Let it be published and enacted. [end recording]

The total number of votes for president was 19,091,843. The total number of votes per candidate was as follows: Carlos Salinas de Gortari received 9,687,926 votes; Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano received 5,929,585 votes; Manuel J. Clouthier del Rincon received 3,208,584 votes; Gumersindo Magana Negrete received 199,891 votes; and Rosario Ibarra de Piedra received 74,857 votes. [figures as heard]

We must point out that yesterday's was only the first reading of the report that the Government and Constitutional Affairs Commission submitted to the Electoral College. The members of the Electoral College must now listen to a second reading of the document. However, it is expected that an exception will be made and that today at 1200, when the sessions are scheduled to begin, debate on the report will take place. Once the report has been sufficiently discussed, the Electoral College will issue a final ruling on the presidential elections.

Yesterday's session was scheduled to begin at 1400, but it was delayed 6 hours. At a little past 2000, when the roll was being called, the opposition factions left the room, but remained in the halls. The opposition's position was to protest the report submitted by the Government and Constitutional Commission, which was only approved by the PRI deputies.

We must also point out that at 1630, a few hours after the report was drafted, the members of the opposition who are on that commission left because they disagreed with the report. During the entire reading of the report, the opposition, which decided to return to the meeting, expressed its disagreement with the results. On several occasions, opposition and PRI deputies went to the rostrum to speak. The former spoke against the report and the latter wanted the reading of the report to continue.

While the report was read, the opposition shouted fraud, while the PRI deputies shouted the name of their presidential candidate.

Deputies Walk Out

FL1009171788 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1531 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Close to 70 legislators belonging to the center-leftist Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution [PARM] walked out on the Electoral College of the Chamber of Deputies, which was in the process of validating the presidential election.

After a little more than 12 hours of discussion, speaking on behalf of the Cardenist Front, Roberto Jaramillo called on the members of his party to leave the parliamentary session because their statements were not being considered by the plenum and in protest of the report presented by the Government and Constitutional Affairs Commission.

Moments later, at approximately 0400, PARM Deputy Alberto Perez walked out after expressing his support [as received] for the report.

During the permanent session of the Electoral College, Jesus Lujan Gutierrez of the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] accused members of the National Action Party [PAN] of attempting to obstruct the debate on the report by bringing up topics that did not pertain to the discussions. Electoral College President Miguel Montes Garcia on several occasions called on the deputies to follow the rules since the speeches sometimes did not pertain to the matters being discussed.

The members of the minority parties that remained in the parliamentary area as of 0533 (the PAN, PPS, Mexican Socialist Party, and the Socialist Current Party) requested a recess, which was denied by the majority of the parliament.

The debate, which was primarily poor because of the low-quality of the arguments made by the deputies, focused on the demands made by the opposition parties who insisted that it was necessary to open the electoral packages distributed to each of the 55,000 voting areas throughout the country on 6 July to verify the statistics received.

Upon speaking in favor of approving the report, PRI Deputy Socorro Diaz said neither a constitutional nor an institutional crisis exists, much less a government crisis. If there is a crisis, she said, it is in the political development process and this presents a challenge, not a disaster. It is a crisis brought about by the gap created as of 6 July between the exemplary conduct of the Mexican

people and the lack of preparation and leadership—needed for advancement—on the part of some parties. The legislator called on the deputies of the 54th legislature to fulfill their constitutional responsibility.

The Electoral College will present the report to the plenum for approval after 65 speakers have expressed their views in favor or against the document.

Electoral College Declaration

PA1109035688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The Electoral College of the Chamber of Deputies this morning declared Carlos Salinas de Gortari the winner of the 6 July presidential elections. At 1030, Miguel Montes Garcia, deputy and president of the Electoral College, read the single article of the Government and Constitutional Commission's ruling:

[Begin Montes recording] The Chamber of Deputies of the 54th legislature of the Mexican Congress, according to Article 74, Paragraph 1, of the Constitution, and Article 24 of the law establishing the Mexican Congress, hereby declares that Carlos Salinas is the constitutional president for the term beginning 1 December 1988 and ending 30 November 1994. [end recording]

The ruling came as the result of 5 days of work by 24 PRI and 21 opposition deputies, all of whom were members of the Government Commission. During the first reading of the ruling on Thursday, the force of the party majority was felt in the sessions room.

Yesterday, when the sessions were resumed at 1400, the PRI followers defended, one by one, the vote count and the arguments of the ruling. The debate was difficult at all times, first when a list of 40 speakers was drafted to discuss the legal basis of the electoral document, and later when the ruling's contents were discussed.

For this debate, 13 legislators who opposed the ruling and 52 who defended it—65 in all—were listed. At 0330, as at other times, representatives of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction left the Legislative Assembly. Representatives of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution also left 30 minutes later. Finally, representatives of the Mexican Socialist Party, the Popular Socialist Party, and the parliamentary faction of the Democratic Current left shortly before 0900. PRI and PAN representatives stayed.

The final vote count at the assembly resulted in 273 deputies backing the ruling and 89 opposing it. Three deputies, former members of the National Democratic Front, voted for Salinas.

The total vote count of the 6 July presidential elections is: Salinas, 9,665,926 votes, or 50.74 percent; Cuauthemoc Cardenas Solorzano, 5,929,575 votes, or 31.06 percent; Manuel Clouthier, 3,208,584 votes, or 16.81 percent; Gumercindo Magana Negrete, 190,891 votes, or 1 percent; and Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, 64,857 votes, or 0.39 percent. Even if all the parties had pooled their votes, they could not have defeated Salinas, the president-elect.

Salinas Comments

PA1109034488 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Report on interview with President-Elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari by unidentified reporter in Mexico City on 10 September—live or recorded]

[Text] Mexico will again grow in democratic freedom, Carlos Salinas de Gortari said in his offices in the southern part of Mexico City shortly after he learned that he had been declared president-elect.

[Begin recording] [Salinas] I reaffirm my commitment to govern for all Mexicans, regardless of their political affiliation, struggling always to defend our independence and sovereignty, and encouraging democratic causes, with a commitment to (?pursue) justice, particularly in a climate of freedom, because without freedom we would not feel like Mexicans or that we are following the tenets of the Constitution and the law.

[Reporter] How will you govern the country?

[Salinas] Well, I am going to work from now until 1 December to draw up a program for my administration and to evaluate the current national situation.

[Reporter] What did you think of the Chamber of Deputies' sessions?

[Salinas] Well, I think that they were exceptional from the standpoint that the debates were open and free. Everyone could express his opinion without hindrances of any kind. Freedom prevailed as did a commitment to Mexico.

[Reporter] Mr President [as heard], you define a Mexico that is different economically, socially, and politically. Mexico expects a lot from you.

[Salinas] I will make an exceptional effort to meet those expectations. That is my promise. I will commit all my strength, ability, and all my [words indistinct] to the effort.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Salinas] Respect and recognition of the work done.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Salinas] It is a matter of encouraging unity.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Salinas] It is as inevitable as it is indispensable. Mexico, our country, has to grow again, and it will do so because that is the only way for us to truly raise our compatriots' standard of living. [end recording]

Later, addressing members of his party, Salinas de Gortari reiterated his pledge to recognize and encourage political pluralism within the framework of the law.

Costa Rica

Bomb Damages U.S. Linked Factory, Injures One

PA0909175188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1659 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] San Jose, 9 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—A Costa Rican rural guardsman was injured and five homes and a factory were damaged this morning by a bomb explosion on the Panamanian border, police have reported.

The attack, termed "terrorist," by the police, occurred in San Vito de Coto Brus, 350 km south of the Costa Rican capital.

The police said the explosion occurred at 0200 (0800 GMT), and the perpetrators presumably escaped in two vehicles toward Panama, whose border is a few kilometers from the location of the incident.

Inhabitants of the area said the damaged factory is owned by a U.S. citizen who lives in Panama and whose name is not known.

The Government Ministry dispatched special personnel to the site of the explosion to gather more details, police sources told ACAN-EFE.

Rural guardsman Eugenio Calderon was slightly injured and is out of danger, the police reported.

Alberto Fallas, rural assistance guard in Coto Brus, said some people saw the alleged suspects escape in two vehicles toward Panama, but they could not be pursued because no vehicles were available.

Losses are considerable although the authorities have not estimated the amount.

Further on Incident

PA0909214788 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] There was a report of a violent, early morning explosion in the area of San Vito in Coto Brus at a coffee and peanut roasting company called Tico-Panamena Company. Although it is located in Costa Rica, it apparently belongs to members of Panama's National Civic Crusade. The explosion destroyed the company's facilities. Several nearby buildings also suffered heavy damage.

This situation called for the immediate attention of the Rural Guard [GAR]. The Judicial Police also became involved because all indications are that this was a terrorist attack perpetrated by Panamanians. The situation grew even more serious as a result of a shootout between unknown persons and GAR policemen. The policemen had come to find out what those people were doing near the coffee roasting company.

A bullet hit one of the guardsmen on his belt buckle. Government Minister Antonio Alvarez Desanti, who is handling the matter because the San Vito Coto Brus border post is managed by the GAR and thus falls within his purview, had the following information to provide:

[Begin Alvarez recording, in progress]...hours, in the early morning, members of the GAR encountered some suspicious looking individuals near a coffee and peanut roasting company called Tico-Panamena in the San Vito area. When our officers approached the individuals to investigate what was going on, they opened fire. One of the bullets was deflected by a policeman's belt buckle, saving him from injury; he simply received powder burns. The policemen confronted the individuals, but the latter managed to escape, presumably toward the Panamanian side of the border.

There was an explosion inside the company. We are presently trying to find out whether it was caused by a bomb or whether it was an exploding boiler or involved a malfunction of other equipment inside the facility. On my direct instructions, GAR Director General Antonio Espinoza is conducting an investigation. The Judicial Investigation Organization has also been informed so that joint efforts can be made to see whether the explosion was indeed caused by an explosive device or whether it was just an exploding boiler. In general, that is what the situation is here. [end recording]

This morning, in order to determine the cause of this incident and to determine whether it was actually an act of terrorism, the public security minister and the Civil Guard's director general went to the area accompanied by national security officials. In addition, the GAR director general has been at the site since this morning.

El Salvador

Duarte Denies Report of Inability To Govern

PA1009235488 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 10 Sep 88 p 8

[Excerpt] "I am able to govern," President Jose Napoleon Duarte said yesterday in response to a question on the request presented on Thursday by Dr Ramon Rosales y Rosales, a leader of the MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement], who asked that the president be examined medically in accordance with the Constitution to allow the Assembly to decide whether his state of health will permit him to remain in office.

Duarte said that even some days ago when his defenses had been critically low because of his chemotherapy treatments, he had continued to work with several ministers, including the defense minister.

Duarte made these statements in Antiguo Cuscatlan at the inauguration of a new municipal school. He later went to the Presidential Palace, where he swore in the team that will soon leave for the Olympics in Seoul. [passage omitted]

Medical Committee Decision Sought

PA0909230788 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Sep 88

[Report by Mauricio Funes; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] A proposal was presented to the Legislative Assembly this morning requesting the appointment of a committee composed of five doctors to determine whether President Duarte is physically and mentally capable of continuing his term in office. The Assembly's political committee will study the written proposal and make a decision regarding the formation of a special medical committee.

[Funes] "Juan Ramon Rosales y Rosales, secretary general of the MERECEN, presented the proposal in his capacity as a citizen. Rosales argued that Article 131, Section 20 of the Constitution authorizes the Legislative Assembly to pronounce the president physically and mentally incapable of performing his duties. According to the Constitution, the Assembly can resort to this action if it has the support of at least two-thirds of the deputies and if it agrees with the recommendation of a five-doctor committee appointed by the Assembly."

[Rosales] "I think it is important to express my deep concern for our country's political and judicial security. I strongly believe that it is physically impossible for President Duarte—who just had two-thirds of his stomach surgically removed because of a cancerous ulcer and who is suffering from a cancerous malignancy of parts of his liver—to rule the country capably and carefully while undergoing chemotherapy treatment for his cancer."

[Funes] "Both the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] supported the written proposal. Each party, naturally, made its own appraisal of the request."

[Unidentified ARENA deputy] "As the Legislative Assembly's majority party, our party will maintain a position of equanimity and dignity. As prominent politicians in both times of crisis and times of peace, we will present impartial arguments during the committee's discussion of the issue. We will maintain that position both within the committee and during the Assembly's discussion of the committee's recommendation." [passage omitted]

[Funes] "It has been said that the Constitution refers to the problem of a leader's physical and mental incapacity in an ambiguous manner. The relevant constitutional article, for instance, does not specify any procedures in cases where the president refuses to be examined by the medical committee and insists on continuing his presidential duties.

"It has also been said, more importantly, that as long as Duarte remains in power, the opposition will find it more difficult to criticize and to create problems for the Duarte administration in the months preceding the elections. The Assembly's political committee will examine Rosales' written proposal to determine whether it will appoint a special medical committee. Several deputies also submitted a motion by which the Legislative Assembly will recommend that President Duarte request a permanent leave of absence from his presidential functions for health reasons."

D'Aubuisson on Death-Squad Charges, Elections

PA1109200688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, by unidentified reporters in San Salvador on 31 August—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Today we will be talking with Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson, and perhaps the main topic of our conversation will be the recent article that appeared in THE WASHINGTON POST and MIAMI HERALD that linked the major to death squads and other activities, which we will discuss in this interview. Good morning, welcome to the program.

[D'Aubuisson] Good morning, friends, and thank you for the invitation.

[Reporter] We would like you to comment on the article. We will discuss certain portions of the article later, but, in short, it says that since 1970 you have built a nationwide network of death squads; that according to two security guards, you have ordered the assassination of political opponents; that using the cover of the Constituent Assembly, you have amassed a complete arsenal. It makes a number of charges against you. What is your opinion?

[D'Aubuisson] Well, what this report in THE WASHINGTON POST shows is that elections are about to be held in El Salvador. These types of reports come out whenever we are getting close to elections. It is encouraging because at least this guarantees that there will be presidential elections in 1989. There is a background to this maneuver that is not improvised. It has been planned for quite a long time. It is more or less the response of Mr Edwin Corr [former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador] to our repudiation of him. He is now getting even. The general idea...

[Reporter, interrupting] What repudiation?

[D'Aubuisson] We protested in the Legislative Assembly about his interference in the internal affairs of the political parties. Because ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] is sure to win the next presidential elections, the general idea behind this maneuver is to again create the image that it is dangerous for ARENA to win because of the death squads. In short, they are again using this maneuver, especially by attacking me. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The newsman said he based his information on the testimony of Salvadoran Army officers, intelligence experts, politicians, and diplomats and that this corresponds to information gathered by U.S. intelligence services and even by the Salvadoran Justice Ministry.

[D'Aubuisson] If they had all of this intelligence, why is it now, when we are getting close to a campaign, that they disclose the existence of Torres? Why didn't they arrest Torres if the intelligence services already knew that this Mr Torres had participated in assassinations? You have to understand this. Another interesting thing is that the Mr Regalado who was mentioned in the article was working for the National Police in San Salvador up to last year with a group that was also financed by the United States. It is the group working on drugs with the gringo DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency]. Here it has another name, but I do not remember what it is. Regalado worked for this group as a firing-range instructor. He worked for the police, and it is only now that they say that they had information about him.

[Reporter] Major, how did this relationship come about? In addition, this is not the first time you have been charged with this. It has been said that where there is smoke, there is fire. Your name has been linked to these crimes again and again.

[D'Aubuisson] And they will continue to mention my name.

[Reporter] But why, Major?

[D'Aubuisson] Because it is I who interrupted the Yankees' scheme so that our fate would be different from Managua's. I reported this movement for the first time in 1980. We disrupted Ambassador Robert White's scheme. Had the Salvadoran people not awakened and had we not presented ourselves as nationalists at that time, we would be just like the Sandinists by now. In Nicaragua, [former U.S.] Ambassador Pezzullo fulfilled his mission. But he is now free of the Yankees' control since they kicked him out for being too hard-line. They planned to do something similar here. I have always been active in politics. If I were an unknown, they would not have been wasting paper in mentioning or discussing me. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What will happen between now and the presidential election? What will happen with these reports? Will they be forgotten and become obsolete? Will they keep fanning the fire? How will ARENA respond? What do you anticipate in the coming months prior to the presidential election?

[D'Aubuisson] In the coming months, we will continue to work hard at the Assembly to discuss some very important things, such as the creation of a commission to assess the agrarian reform. Politically, we keep organizing and preparing ourselves for the "Operation President 89" plan. We will hold a general ARENA assembly on 9 October, when we will commemorate our 7th anniversary. We will proclaim our candidate, Christiani, and announce his platform. This is all I can tell you about this.

[Reporter] Speaking of the ARENA vice-presidential candidate, it has been said you are vying for this post.

[D'Aubuisson] No, I am struggling to stay in the party at all times. This has always been my struggle, not to attain a specific post. I have done my duty. Look, with the party's support, I have had the honor of being president of the Constituent Assembly. In addition, I am honorary president of the party and deputy. I will continue to work because, through my party, I can do my people some good.

[Reporter] Shall we then forget about you as a vice-presidential candidate?

[D'Aubuisson] You can very nearly count on that. [passage omitted]

Army To Investigate Nicaraguan Contra Charges

PA1109015888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Salvadoran Coprefa Chief Colonel Galileo Torres said that the Salvadoran Army High Command will begin a detailed investigation of the charges presented by EPS Intelligence Chief Ricardo Wheelock that El Salvador is helping the contras. Torres remarked that the Sandinists continue to help the FMLN. Col Galileo Torres said that the charges presented by Ricardo Wheelock are groundless.

He added that the Salvadoran Army High Command realizes that each country should solve its own problems, but that this fact is not respected by the Sandinists, who continue to provide military support to the FMLN. Torres said that the Army will analyze the accusations presented by Wheelock against the Salvadoran Army, specifically that there are contra training camps in our country.

[Begin recording] [Torres] We believe that Nicaragua must solve its own problems. We ask the Nicaraguan Government to allow us to solve our own problems; we know that it is helping the criminal terrorists of the

FMLN-FDR. On behalf of the Army High Command, I want to reaffirm that El Salvador will never participate in activities such as the ones Mr Wheelock is accusing us of participating in.

[Reporter] What is the [words indistinct] those accusations against the Salvadoran Army?

[Torres] I believe that Mr Wheelock wants to play the FMLN's game. He wants to promote disinformation throughout the country. I wish to add that the Salvadoran people must be alert to the current disinformation circulating in the country, which is meant to discredit the Armed Forces and the country's democratic process. I believe that Mr Wheelock's sole purpose is to help destabilize the Salvadoran Government and to harm the Salvadoran Army's image. [end recording]

Col Torres asserted that the High Command will meet with the Salvadoran foreign minister in the next few days to analyze the situation and to take the necessary steps with regard to the Sandinist government.

Army Officer on Counterinsurgency Operation
PA1109032188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] According to Colonel Ciro Lopez, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, military operations in the northern Chalatenango Department have been highly successful. The military chief said that after 151 days of a counterinsurgency operation called "Heroes of El Paraiso," important rebel hideouts have been dismantled:

[Lopez] "From the very beginning, we eliminated—or generally reduced—the presence of guerrillas in that area, which had been their bastion, their strategic rearguard, containing the headquarters of all the terrorist organizations that exist in the country. We have completely dismantled them, and we have reduced the guerrillas to just small groups in the mountainous areas, groups that pose no significant threat. Thus, I believe that we have achieved a good part of our goals, and we are in complete military control of Chalatenango Department."

As for casualties, Col Lopez said that there had been over 100 on both sides:

[Lopez] "We counted approximately 132 rebels dead and some 160 wounded. There were other casualies, but we cannot take them into account because they have not been verified. Among Army ranks, 34 have been killed and approximately 130 wounded."

Col Lopez described the refugee camps as a kind of way station for the guerrillas. He reaffirmed that the Army is looking for a repatriated leader who is a confirmed member of the guerrillas:

[Lopez] "We can mention Amadeo Lopez, who has recently been among the repatriates and who is a leader of the FPL [Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces]."

[Reporter] "Will such people be arrested and tried in the courts?"

[Lopez] "Well, under our laws, it has to be that way. We are just waiting for an opportunity to arrest him and turn him over to the courts, because he is a known guerrilla."

Finally, in reference to Chalatenango Plan'88, the new commander of the northern department said that the Army's contribution will primarily be to provide security for the activities.

FDR's Zamora on FMLN's Gonzalez' Statements
PA1109041488 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 7 Sep 88 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Zamora Says: FMLN Shows Neutrality Concerning Elections; Central Electoral Council Expresses Views on Social Christian People's Movement Registration"]

[Excerpt] Commenting on statements made by FMLN Commander Leonel Gonzalez, FDR leader Ruben Zamora said today: "It seems to me that the FMLN's statement concerning the participation of the Democratic Merger in the elections is an expression of neutrality."

Zamora added: "I have not seen the official text of that statement yet. I only read the report published by EL MUNDO yesterday." Zamora said that the FMLN's analysis has several points in common with some of the Democratic Merger's statements, such as the fact that elections are not a solution in themselves and that there is a need to continue working for a political, negotiated solution to the conflict.

Zamora interpreted Gonzalez' statement to mean: "We [the FMLN] will not fight the Democratic Merger's decision, but we will not support it either."

In addition, Zamora said that the Central Electoral Council [CCE] accepted the documents presented by the Social Christian People's Movment, MPSC, and that the CCE's legal department had expressed a favorable opinion on the MPSC's application to register as a party. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Talks With Rebels

PA1009154288 Guatemala City LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Sep 88 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] It has been frequently said that the Army has set conditions for government-guerrilla talks. Is that true?

[Gramajo] Subversive groups are trying to deny the democracy we currently enjoy in Guatemala. They are very dogmatic and have not realized that since we began the democratic process, we have abided by the Constitution. We are participating in that process within the scope of our authority—in the military field—in accordance with our duty, which is defending the Guatemalan state. While we do our job, politicians must take care of political matters, economists must work in the economic field, and, in sum, everyone must do his own job.

We do not have relations with the clandestine armed groups because the politicians do not want to commit suicide. The Constitution of the Republic provides the guidelines for social and political coexistence in Guatemala. By refusing to talk with the armed rebels, politicians are complying with the law. A small group of criminals are not going to make the laws in our country.

We have not set any conditions. We are simply abiding by the Constitution, and that is what some people fail to understand, because they are not used to a professional army that only does its job and refuses to go beyond the responsibilities established by law.

[Reporter] Would the Army agree to allow the guerrillas to participate in the national dialogue?

[Gramajo] The Guatemalan Constitution states that all legal institutions have the right to participate; however, these groups operate outside the law. They are illegal and, therefore, have no rights.

[Reporter] Do you maintain that position even though in Costa Rica the rebels expressed their willingness to talk?

[Gramajo] That is just a strategy. They are trying to change their image from that of a wolf to that of a sheep. While they talk about peace and dialogue, they also kill policemen and terrify rural communities. If they really wanted to participate, they would lay down their weapons and would join conventional political life.

[Reporter] The guerrillas have stressed that you are the ones who refuse to accept a truce....

[Gramajo] That is a short-term strategy they have sketched. We will not agree to a truce proposal from a party that claims to represent an armed group struggling for survival in the mountains. They (the fighters) are not connected to the political elite that stay in five-star hotels and travel from Bonn to Paris, to Washington, to Mexico, to San Jose...the groups that are currently in the mountains have nothing in common with these political groups. In fact, the day they [the rebel leaders] were in San Jose, we attacked one of their main camps in Chimaltenango, and we confirmed that their commander, Palma Lau, had abandoned them. So we cannot agree to a truce when those who propose it have no control over the fighters.

[Reporter] You mentioned the lack of coordination between the guerrilla leaders and the guerrilla fighters. Obviously, the guerrillas who are now in the mountains would be the ones to lay down their weapons. Is that right?

[Gramajo] Yes.

[Reporter] Then—going back to the beginning of our conversation—what would be the value of talks such as the ones held in Costa Rica if there is no connection between the guerrilla leaders and the fighters?

[Gramajo] As we said, it is a strategy. It goes like this: In 1954, a number of intellectuals and pseudo-intellectuals went into exile. While away, they became university teachers, editorialists, and critics of the government. In 1962, when university students like Andrade Diaz, Serrano Elias, Cerezo Arevalo, Salazar, and Roca were active, the opposition was divided into two wings, one of which favored the clandestine struggle in the mountains, while others, like the ones we mentioned, joined the struggle through conventional politics.

Many of those who tried to fight in the mountains chose to go to Mexico when they realized how hard it was to fight the Army. Asturias, for example, had been in the custody of the Honor Guard but was released by order of Ydigoras [former President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes], who was his godfather. There are many such cases.

[Reporter] Am I right in saying that the Guatemalan Army does not recognize the existence of a state of war?

[Gramajo] There is no state of war. The problem is that there are some armed bands who are operating in order to survive. Every 20 or 22 days they attack a farm or a town, steal some 1,200 quetzales, and hide their weapons. There is evidently no political leadership.

Now, those who left the country in the mid-1970's and who are the political elite claim that they control these bands, but that is not true. It is on this basis that they want a fictitious state of war to be recognized.

[Reporter] What, then, is the true objective of the insurgents?

[Gramajo] When President Cerezo's government was inaugurated, they lost many rallying points. Mainly, they had claimed to be fighting against the Army because it "governed the country and oppressed the people," in their opinion. Now they are faced with a great problem, because the people have chosen a democratic form of life. Thus, they now have to oppose the Army, the president, and the people's will. They have no choice but to revise their strategy, and it is to this end that they have decided to turn and strengthen themselves in the international sphere, which is the only sphere in which they fit, because locally they have been rejected by all sectors.

[Reporter] Is it true that the Army was irritated by the talks in Madrid?

[Gramajo] No, the Army was not irritated. The General Staff, with great wisdom, recommended a number of measures that we could call conservative. We had plans to implement them from 1984-85. These measures dealt with awakening the consciousness of officers in regard to the meaning of democratic life, freedom, and other topics.

Remember that the CEM [Military Training Center] was closed at the height of military operations (1979-84); Esquipulas and its agreements stepped up what occurred in Guatemala; and the Army and its officers withstood a tremendous campaign unleashed by the ultraconservative sectors while the Congress argued about who was in charge of Guatemala's economic policy.

Then we had the opportunity to send representatives, and we decided to send officers as observers, to study the enemy and to ascertain that the guerrilla's representatives are international men with smooth hands and refined tastes who live comfortably in European capitals—and not people who come from the mountains. We confirmed that there is no unity between the political group and the armed rebels. Furthermore, we confirmed that their thesis and views about Guatemala date back 10 years, and they would like to be living in 1978.

[Reporter] What are the Army's latest statistics on its counterinsurgency operations?

[Gramajo] We have a roundup prepared between mid-September 1987 and late April 1988. We can announce that we have recovered about 5,000 hostages that the rebels were holding north of Quiche. They were being used as recruits, porters, observers, and as a front. We have no way of ascertaining how many casualties we have inflicted because they pick up their wounded and dead and bury them secretly, while we call the judge, take the dead soldiers and publicly bury them with honors. The rebels' advantage is twofold because they can conceal the results of our operations. When the secret cemeteries are later found, they can claim that the dead are innocent civilians killed by the Army.

Nevertheless, the more tangible results are quite evident: We have guaranteed a harvest without a single incident throughout the southern coast, where daily activities have continued because the people have jobs, salaries, harvests, and nothing has changed. Everything is normal throughout the country.

[Question] Have the results of these operations had any repercussions within the Army's ranks?

[Gramajo] The repercussions have been positive, particularly because we have reached the bottom, perhaps due to our isolation at the international level. We were able to repair our aircraft with our own maintenance and training systems; we were able to open the CEM and train replacements for our men; and, in sum, we increased our operational capability. The subversives have recognized this. We have carried out the longest and most intensive operations in 28 years during this democratic regime. That has had a positive effect on our officers' morale.

[Question] The extreme right-wing groups and some former officers say that there is division in the Army. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Do you remember the interview I gave you on 18 April? On that occasion, I told you something I subsequently repeated in a lecture I delivered at the Chamber of Commerce: The most they would achieve by investing large sums of money was to create a very small division in the Army. The most success they have had or will have is the expulsion of 10 officers from the Army as a result of what happened on 11 May. In response to that incident, we have taken corrective and preventive measures, especially in terms of education and commitment to the military profession. Our military fundamentalism allows me to say with confidence that at this moment we are in a better position than we were prior to 11 May.

[Question] Let us now review the counterinsurgency strategy...

[Answer] Our analysis of the strategy that we must follow is part of our concept that we are a national army struggling against an enemy in our own homeland. The foundation of our strategy is based primarily on the premise that everything we do is for the defense of our homeland and our fellow citizens. We believe that "it is better to have a live subversive committing crimes than to have an innocent citizen killed in the struggle."

From that springs a series of proposals that have resulted in a successful strategy. At the end of 1980, we had a subversive presence with major influence over eight

departments. Ninety-five towns in the northwestern portion of the country were under their control, 35 of which were ghost municipal capitals, because they had been burned down, as happened in Sacapulas, Nenlon, Ixtahuacan, Chisec, and a number of other towns. The influence of the subversives affected almost 300,000 Guatemalans. Their strength was estimated at 12,000 armed men.

Now, at the end of the decade, they should respond to the question regarding how many towns and inhabitants they control. We believe they now have approximately 700 souls in three localities, and they travel from one place to another, crossing the border to hide. They move around, dreaming. They even have a transmitter that in fact has only been heard by the Military Intelligence Group, which in the final analysis has to jam it. We are after them. The poor things say, for example, that recently they killed 116 soldiers. Do you think the people would not know if they had inflicted such a large number of casualties on us?

Perhaps the most important evidence of the success of our strategy is the number of times that they have influenced the government's decisions since 1984. The last time they influenced a government decision was in 1983, when it was decided that the Armed Forces should be redistributed throughout the country. Since then nothing they have done has affected government actions.

[Question] Where do you get the information regarding the size of the insurgent forces?

[Answer] From documents that we seize from them and the reports given by deserters. This is fantastic: The rate of guerrilla desertions is very high. Not long ago a television newscast reported a clash between the Army and a column of 49 subversives. When we talked to them we learned that 5 were killed, 15 were left wounded, and 10 deserted.

[Question] To what do you attribute the high desertion rate that you mention?

[Answer] Basically, it is because we maintain constant pressure on them. In addition, although the people—and especially the city folks—claim just the opposite, agricultural activity has not ceased. The price of fertilizer has not increased, cooperatives are stronger, several harvests were brought in, and things are relatively peaceful. When one of them realizes that there is a possibility to work in peace and earn wages, it is very difficult for him to continue fighting with such great hardships and so much personal sacrifice.

Now all that is ending for them, because the governments of friendly countries have stopped giving them support to destabilize a democratically elected government as we have now.... Today the struggle is for survival, to try to give validity to the arguments of every group in the international context. And everything seems to indicate that this will be very difficult to achieve...

Army Rejects Request for 'Urgent' Dialogue

PA1109140688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0901 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 11 Sep (EFE)—Congressional sources have reported that the Guatemalan Army rejected a parliamentary petition for an "urgent" dialogue with the guerrillas.

Congressional leaders from various political parties met with the Army's top command last night at the home of Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo. Deputy Hector Luna Troccoli, leader of the Union of the National Center (UCN) party, the main opposition party, said that the specific topics that were discussed were the human rights situation and the need to have a direct dialogue with the guerrillas.

In addition to Gramajo, the meeting included General Manuel Antonio Callejas, chief of the general staff; Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, who is also secretary general of the ruling Christian Democratic Party; and Government Minister Roberto Valle Baldizan.

Deputies Hector Vasquez of the Democratic Socialist Party and Victor Hugo Godoy of the Revolutionary Party, both opposition parties, stressed to the top military command the "urgency" of holding a direct dialogue with the guerrillas.

However, Gen Gramajo, who said he is not "at the service of the ruling or any opposition party," reiterated categorically that "the Army will not talk with the guerrillas," Luna Troccoli told EFE.

The military commander stressed that "for us to talk with the guerrillas, they would first have to put down their weapons and legally participate in the country's politics." [passage omitted]

Honduras

Police Report Death of Peace Corps Member

PA0909231388 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2234 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Sep (REUTER)—A U.S. Peace Corps volunteer was shot to death in this capital last night, apparently by security personnel who mistook him for an intruder, the police said today.

Matthew Sherman, 22, from Ohio, was shot twice in the chest at point-blank range in front of the Peace Corps training center on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa.

A U.S. Embassy statement said: "Two security policemen stationed at the site are being detained by Honduran authorities while an investigation is carried out." A female Peace Corps member who was with Sherman was unhurt.

The police said that apparently the security policemen opened fire when they mistook Sherman for an intruder. Sherman had arrived in Honduras recently and was to be sworn in as volunteer today after completing his basic training.

More than 300 Peace Corps members currently work in Honduras, more than in any other country. Their official mission is to foster education, health, and agriculture in poor countries, and to promote understanding between the United States and other nations.

Foreign Minister Attends Meeting in Manila
HK0709103588 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 6 Sep 88 p 6

[By Marites Sison and Sammy Santos]

[Text] Thirteen countries who attended the first International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies [CNRD] in Manila will meet again on Sept. 29 in New York to discuss possible courses of action in coping with foreign debts.

This was announced yesterday by Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus after an hour-long meeting with visiting Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras.

"We each have our own peculiar concerns, but maybe after we sit down there we might be able to speak up with one voice," Manglapus, referring to the question of external debt, told reporters.

Contreras, here for a three-day "goodwill" visit, said he believed countries grappling with debt burdens "are open to explore any possibilities of joining with the underdeveloped nations with that same type of problems."

Contreras later called on President Aquino in Malacanang where they discussed the debt problems of their respective countries.

"She was obviously concerned over the impact of your foreign debt on the economy and the welfare of the Filipino people as we have the same problem back home," Contreras told Malacanang reporters.

During the NRD Conference held last June 4 to 6, participating countries including the Philippines and Honduras issued a joint declaration stating, among others, that they "will seek ways on close consultation among our governments, without prejudice to the growth and welfare of our people, to confront the problem of external debt."

The Philippines, with a $28.6 foreign debt, ranks third among the debtor countries represented at the conference.

Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Nicaragua, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Greece, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Portugal and the Philippines had urged creditor countries to share the burden of debtor countries and to recognize the debt crisis as a global problem.

Informed sources at the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] said the Manila Declaration of 1988 was included as an "official document" to be distributed to UN member countries attending the General Assembly on September 20.

Interviewed by reporters, Contreras spoke at length about the war in Central America.

Conteras urged the superpowers to "exercise some kind of restraint" and "seek some type of understanding" that would put an end to the internal conflict in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

"You can't ask Honduras to resolve the problem of security with El Salvador and Nicaragua, where they are financed by both superpowers," Contreras said. "In order to reach settlement in Central America, the superpowers have to negotiate among themselves in order that the effects will be carried out."

Honduras, Contreras said, has continued to face problems of "incursions" on its boundaries—by the leftist FMLN Salvadoran rebels on its territorial boundary—with El Salvador and by the Contras, which are trying to topple the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

The U.S. has been accused of funding the Contras, while the Soviet Union has been accused of funding the FMLN rebels through Cuba and Nicaragua.

Contreras denied that Honduras had been offering a base for the Contra guerrillas, saying "we have no commitment to resolve the security problem and the problem of democracy in Nicaragua."

He said his government was looking forward to the time when the Contras would "reinstall and integrate themselves to the political system in Nicaragua."

"We would be very much at ease if we will be isolated from this problem," he said.

During his meeting with Manglapus. Contreras was conferred the "order of Sikatuna" with the rank of datu for his "exceptionally meritorious services in the field of international relations."

The award was given by Manglapus in behalf of President Aquino.

Salvadoran Refugees Said To Seize Land, Steal

PA1009234388 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa—Seven mayors from La Paz Department municipalities on the Salvadoran border have denounced the mass arrival of Salvadoran refugees, who have seized and fenced off Honduran territory. A report containing these charges was sent to President Jose Azcona Hoyo, along with a copy to the Honduran Congress. Immediate actions to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and the lives of Honduran citizens living in that area were urgently requested.

The mayors represent the communities of Opatoro, Guaijiquiro, Santa Ana, Marcala, Cabanas, Yarula, and Santa Elena. They assured President Cerezo [as heard] that they have personally ascertained that the Salvadorans have arrived en masse and have usurped our land. The mayors asserted that hundreds of Salvadoran families have built homes, planted crops, and fenced in land. They are even raising cattle on land rightfully belonging to 15 Honduran farmers. The mayors added that the Salvadorans have set up lumber mills and felled all the trees in important zones, while, at the same time, robbing the Honduran people of their cattle, chickens, money, and anything else of value. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Japanese Aid Announced

Minister Counselor Carlos Falck Contreras announced that the Japanese Government will grant a $50-million loan to the Honduran Government. The Japanese financing will be channeled through the World Bank and will be used toward the balance of payments. The first disbursement of this loan is to be made this month. [Summary] [*PA1109024488 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Sep 88*]

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Talks, Summit

PA1009030288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0118 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist Defense Committees, CDS, at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] Today we are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September insurrection. It was the September insurrection that gave rise to the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS]. The roots of the CDS reside in the combativeness of the Nicaraguan people in their struggle for justice, freedom, democracy, and peace.

On this glorious date, when we remember the heroic September actions, we are also paying homage to those who fought and died in September and to those who fought and survived September to continue fighting and defending the revolutionary process in Nicaragua. The CDS were an integral part of that insurrection, and the CDS are now an integral part of the struggle being waged by the Nicaraguan people for the defense of life, for the defense of right, for the security of all Nicaraguans.

This is a difficult struggle because we have had to face for many years the U.S. Government, face its unjust policy, face its aggressive policy, face its policy that disregards international law. We have fought to bring about the peace that our people desire so much, peace with freedom, peace with justice, peace with democracy, which is the only peace we understand. [passage omitted]

The work of the CDS has been carried out under conditions during which our country, as we all know, has been subjected to the U.S. Government's aggression. This indisputably makes resources scarce, and the comrades within our public institutions do not have sufficient resources to meet the people's demands. Therefore, the population has to intensify its efforts under these conditions—using the few resources that the government can supply—to complete the most urgent tasks, especially those projects that have a direct and immediate impact on the health of the children, on the health of the population, and on the education of the population. [passage omitted]

There have been 10 years of CDS's. Ten years have passed since the September insurrection. They have been 10 years of struggle by the Nicaraguan people for peace; a peace we hoped to achieve following the revolutionary victory of 19 July 1979 but that we have not achieved yet.

In recent days, in accordance with our desire for peace, we have talked by telephone with the presidents of Guatemala and Costa Rica. I spoke with the president of Guatemala to inform him about the Nicaraguan Government's position on his meetings with the contras. I told him the contras, as everybody knows, do not want to come to Managua. To begin with, we have never offered Managua as the site for such meetings. The Nicaraguan people and the international community understand this very clearly: We never offered Managua. It was the contras and the U.S. Government who insisted that the meetings take place in Managua. They were not satisfied with the meetings in the Dominican Republic, in Costa Rica, and in Guatemala. They kept insisting: In Managua, in Managua.

Eventually the meetings took place in Managua and it was in Managua that progress was made [Ortega corrects himself] in Nicaragua, rather. It was in Sapoa, in Nicaraguan territory, that the famous Sapoa agreement was reached. Later, in Managua, 20 points were approved

out of a 32-point document. Afterward, they refused to come to Managua. They have been insisting that the meetings take place outside Nicaragua.

Then, I told President Cerezo that we were interested in holding a preparatory meeting in Guatemala. Comrade Victor Hugo Tinoco would head the Nicaraguan delegation at this meeting. I told him that we proposed, and today, on occasion of this anniversary, we are proposing 19 and 20 September as the dates to hold this meeting in Guatemala.

I had to speak with the president of Guatemala, of course, to see if he agreed with this meeting taking place in Guatemala. He agreed. The object of the meeting is to discuss with a contra delegation the possibility of having a meeting in Managua and to listen to their concerns; to understand why they now fear to come to Managua; to know why they do not want to come to Managua; and to find out what we can do so they will come to Managua.

We are going to ask them to see if we can reach an agreement so they will come to Managua for a new meeting that could be scheduled for the end of this month. We are interested in discussing this in Guatemala.

President Cerezo agreed to inform the contras about this. We decided to wait a few days to make this position official and this is what we are doing today.

I also spoke with President Cerezo and President Oscar Arias about having another Central American presidents meeting. You know that such a meeting was scheduled for 7 August on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the signing of the Esquipulas agreement, but this meeting was not possible. It looks like the conditions for such a meeting are better now. When I spoke with President Cerezo—who had recently visited El Salvador where he met with President Duarte—and during my conversation with President Arias—who has talked with the president of Honduras—I received the impression that all the Central American presidents are willing to participate in a presidents meeting. No conditions are being placed for participating in such a meeting and there is a willingness to participate.

We agreed in principle on holding this meeting at the end of October in El Salvador. We agreed on the date. There is agreement on this. We will actively, not passively, work for this meeting of Central American presidents so it will take place. That is, we will be in constant contact with the Central American governments.

At the meeting we will evaluate compliance with the Esquipulas agreement and make decisions on what actions and steps we can take to strengthen the negotiation process that has awakened so much hope in the Central American, Latin American, and Caribbean people, as well as in other people of the world who are concerned about the situation in Central America.

The Nicaraguan Government and the other Central American governments want peace, but the U.S. Congress will be discussing in a matter of days the notorious package called the $27-million package, but it is a $73-million package. It calls for $27 million to be assigned to the so-called humanitarian aid and $16.5 million for military aid. An additional $5 million is earmarked for humanitarian aid, and then there is the money for transportation expenditures, in addition to insurance for the planes that would carry supplies to the contras. This means that the planes are insured. If we were to down one of those planes, the plane would be immediately replaced.

All this amounts to $73 million, not $27 million. We are talking about $73 million. This is an illegal package. It is a deadly package. This package does not bring life or peace to the Nicaraguan people. It brings death to the Nicaraguan people. Imagine all that the CDS could do with $73 million, all that Father Fabreto, or Father Schendel, or the Red Cross could do for the Nicaraguan people with the $73 million that the U.S. Congress could approve for the contras. We know that the $73 million going to the contras means death, more suffering, more pain for the Nicaraguan people—and imagine what $73 million delivered to qualified humanitarian institutions or to church people involved in humanitarian works here could produce.

If U.S. congressmen want to do some good, well, it would be to give that $73 million to the Nicaraguan Red Cross, to the women organized under the Red Cross—who have been working for many years—to the Lions Club, to the Rotary Club, to Father Schendel, to Father Fabreto. We are not asking them to give this money to the Nicaraguan Government. Let the congressmen give the money to them and we will see how much good it will bring to the Nicaraguan people.

However, their reasoning is not in the framework of peace. Their thoughts are not on justice. They are not acting in that direction. They are acting as imperialists. If they were to act as we suggest toward Nicaragua, we would not be calling them imperialists, but as long as they do not, we have to call them imperialists. We cannot be blamed for calling them that. It is their fault for acting that way against the Nicaraguan people. Their actions are brutal.

There is a ruling by the International Court of Justice, a court that is acknowledged by all countries in the world, a court to which the United States itself has resorted. The United States is ignoring the court. It pays attention to the court only when it serves its interests to do so, when it rules in its favor. However, when the court's ruling is negative to U.S. interests, then the ruling is viewed as worthless, as undeserving of attention.

What the United States is doing is of grave importance. Through Father D'Escoto, at the Nonaligned Movement's meeting of foreign ministers, which is about to

conclude in Cyprus, we are defending international law. International law is the only tool that the small underdeveloped countries, the countries that do not have atomic weapons, have. International law is the weapon we have to defend ourselves from imperialist attitudes and aggressors.

Consensus is increasing among the nonaligned countries to defend international law vigorously and therefore to defend the International Court of Justice. Therefore, all the governments of the world—whether developing countries or highly developed capitalistic and industrialized countries, whether or not they have nuclear weapons—every country in the world should agree to respect international law and to comply when the court makes a decision, when the judge says that this should be like this, that this should be respected and this complied with.

This is a struggle that is very difficult because there are powerful countries such as the United States that refuse to recognize international law, although they signed the UN Charter that compels them to do so. Now that we are speaking about Cyprus, we must recognize and be thankful for the solidarity and backing that Nicaragua has received from the Latin American and Caribbean countries that are members of the Nonaligned Movement, because Nicaragua had been a candidate to host the next meeting of nonaligned countries, and, consequently, to preside over the movement for the next 3 years.

Latin America and the Caribbean backed Nicaragua in Cyprus. However, the problem is that there were two candidates, Nicaragua and Indonesia. [Words indistinct] has the right, like any nonaligned country, also to want to host the next meeting. Since that was the situation, and even with the support that Nicaragua had, we decided to defer Nicaragua's candidacy. We thanked them for the support we received not only from Latin America and the Caribbean. We received a lot of support from Asian and African countries.

Nicaragua is offering to host the 10th summit of the Nonaligned Movement. Taking into consideration that European countries belonging to the Nonaligned Movement have not hosted a summit for nearly 25 years, the most logical thing would be that since there were two candidates, consensus was required and that a European country should host the 9th Nonaligned Movement summit, and, at the same time, preside over the Nonaligned Movement for the next 3 years.

That is still under discussion. There is a certain amount of opinion favorable to a European country hosting the meeting, because Nicaragua in deferring its candidacy for the 10th summit—because then it would focus on Latin America. This also led Indonesia to withdraw. Indonesia and Nicaragua withdrew, and now the space is open for a European country to host it. It could be Cyprus, Yugoslavia, or Malta. A decision will be made tomorrow.

There were other proposals to postpone the decision. However, we believed that this would weaken the movement, because if we are incapable of making decisions in Harare and if we cannot make a decision in Cyprus, when we had a mandate from the presidential summit in Harare to make a decision in Cyprus, this of course would not benefit the movement. This would be exploited by the enemies of the movement in order to weaken it. That is why we are determined that a decision be made as soon as possible.

Every Nicaraguan should be proud that Nicaragua is an important member of, and is strongly backed by, the Nonaligned Movement, although the country had been entirely unheard of until 19 July 1979.

Nicaragua is strongly backed, not only by Latin American and Caribbean, but by African and Asian countries, too, to preside over the Nonaligned Movement. All this, which should make every Nicaraguan proud, is regarded by some in a way we could only describe as antipatriotic and antinational.

After all, the Nicaraguan flag flies at the Nonaligned Movement. It is the complex Nicaraguan situation that makes itself felt at the Nonaligned Movement. So these attitudes could not be interpreted other than as antipatriotic and antinational. This has led some to become completely sectarian, agree with the North American aggressor, and portray as defeat what has proven to be a Nicaraguan triumph.

This, however, is just another indication of our country's pluralism. Those who say they have been deprived of the right to speak do so every day. Those who say they have been deprived of the right to express their views have been doing so every day in an antipatriotic and antinational way.

On this 10th anniversary of the Sandinist Defense Committees and the September insurrection, we call on all Nicaraguans to multiply their efforts and actions for peace. This implies attending to the tasks of the military defense of our country. Our Army, which has been slandered and attacked by some, has been defending those very same people. We are sure that if a Yankee invasion of Nicaragua took place and Nicaragua was governed by a Yankee puppet such as Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez with his staff of Somozist guards, they would not permit the liberties that the revolution guarantees nor the existence of groups, presumably leftist organizations, that have become accomplices of the imperialist aggression.

All parties, be they revolutionary, Marxist-Leninist, socialist, or Communist, would disappear immediately. Those newspapers, parties, or radio stations that dared to criticize Bermudez' government would also disappear. Consequently, to attend to the military defense of the revolution goes far beyond the interests of workers and peasants. We know these are the fundamental forces that

the FSLN protects. But, in addition, the FSLN and, therefore, the Nicaraguan Government, defend a broad, pluralistic political program that gives an opportunity, even to those who have put their hope in a U.S. military intervention, to express their views, to meet, to make statements, to hold news conferences, to write in newspapers, and to make radio announcements.

This is possible because we have an Army that is defending the entire nation. The Army is defending pluralism. It defends the workers, the peasants, the farmers. When the Army fights against the mercenaries in the war zones, it is defending equally both the farmer who is affiliated with COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] and the farmer who is affiliated with UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] because the country wants the farmers to produce, and it has to protect them so they can do so, even while the contras are attacking those farmers.

Thus, the military defense of the nation, the Patriotic Military Service, is the duty of all Nicaraguans, as are the tasks related to health. It would be unjust for those tasks to rest on just one group of Nicaraguans, because the interests of all Nicaraguans are being defended.

Then we have to attend to the tasks related to the economy, at a time when we are taking measures that relate to the country's current situation. If we were to make an economic analysis now, we would have to reach the conclusion that the economic measures that we have already taken were necessary, but it is also necessary to apply other economic measures now to deal with the crisis, to keep the economy from crumbling, and even reactivate the economy.

Therefore, today more than ever, all us Nicaraguans have to become filled with patriotism above all. This means to be willing to struggle, to have a spirit of sacrifice, to have a spirit of self-denial, to be willing to share and cooperate with others, to have Nicaraguan sentiments, to act like true Christians. That is what the present times demand of all Nicaraguans, so we will be able to build a future of peace, without U.S. aggression; a future of peace in which we deal with the economic problems; a future of peace with pluralism and freedom of expression; a future of peace to which all of us are committed today, to avoid bequeathing to our children and grandchildren a situation of confrontation and war.

We are duty bound to achieve that peace, and we can do it, even if the United States is not so inclined. We have been winning that peace through the military defense of the revolution, and through the mobilizations to defend the economy. When a BLI [Battalion for Unconventional Warfare] is mobilized, or when the coffee pickers go to work, we are waging one more battle for peace, and winning that battle. Year after year, we have been piling up triumphs and victories. Our efforts, our ability to struggle, and our willingness to face problems will determine whether or not we can continue defeating the aggression and thus continue moving toward making peace a reality in Nicaragua. Thank you very much. [applause]

Managua Reports on Contra Attacks 3-7 Sep

PA0909173788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Report by Auxiladora Martin from Juigalpa]

[Text] As a result of the latest criminal actions by the counterrevolutionaries in different areas of Region 5, six persons were killed, two injured, and one kidnapped. This clearly shows the mercenaries have violated the cease-fire. One of these actions occurred yesterday. A bus belonging to the Comalapa Municipal Board was hijacked in Concepcion, 6 km south of this municipality. In this operation, five persons were killed, including Armando Montoya, the FSLN political secretary in Comalapa.

A press release by the public relations office of Military Region 5 noted there were seven terrorist actions 3-7 September, the most outstanding of which were two sabotage actions, one ambush, and one attack against civilians and economic objectives. EPS forces repelled another counterrevolutionary attack on 6 September in La Pava sector, 10 km south of Cara de Mono. One contra was killed and military equipment was seized.

In addition, private trucks were ambushed at Ahuehuito Hill, 11 km southwest of Tecolostote; (between Las Miradas) and (Los Laureles), 10 km east of Los Santos neighborhood, Nueva Guinea; and between La Palma and [name indistinct] Guerrero.

EPS Chief Claims Honduran Army Aid to Contras

PA0909170788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Report by Edgar Barberena]

[Text] A contra trained by U.S. advisers on the use of surface-to-air missiles surrendered in September to the EPS. He brought all his equipment with him. Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of the Milititary Intelligence Directorate, made the announcement. He met on 7 September with a Honduran Congress delegation, which learned how the Honduran Armed Forces have been cooperating with the counterrevolutionary groups. Here are Maj Wheelock's exclusive remarks. He spoke before the Honduran lawmakers met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

[Begin recording] [Wheelock] On 4 September, a man named Jose de Jesus Urbina Perez, alias Chumarin, surrendered to our forces. He is from Bluefields, southern Zelaya, and single. He surrendered with all his equipment. In addition, he handed over a U.S.-made

Redeye surface-to-air missile. This person said that in August 1987, a chief named Omar, acting on a recommendation from chief Chino Roger, who is also from Bluefields, selected him, Diego Salomon, and somebody else to take a 3-month course in Honduras on handling missiles and parachuting. He left in September 1987 from San Jose's Juan Santamaria Airport aboard a SAHSA plane. He arrived in Tegucigalpa, where he was received by a counterrevolutionary whose name he does not know.

Two days later, he flew aboard a light aircraft from Toncontin Airport to El Cisne Island. There, a civilian-clothed U.S. citizen taught him how to handle the Redeye missile. Later, another U.S. citizen, whose name he also does not know, trained him in parachute jumps. At the conclusion of the training, he made five jumps on the island's landing strip. Urbina Perez noticed the presence of 8-10 U.S. citizens at the base and several civilians. He does not know their names.

In November 1987, he does not know the exact date, he was taken aboard a C-47 airplane. At 1600, following a 3-hour, 15-minute flight, he parachuted down with three more individuals into (Serrano) neighborhood, Nueva Guinea.

[Honduran deputy] [Question indistinct]

[Wheelock] This means experts are aware of this problem. As an army, ours is basically on a political [as heard] mission. We have developed our own theories to explain this situation to ourselves. As a person who handles intelligence matters in this country, I can affirm that the commitment of the Honduran Army is much deeper than that of the U.S. forces. We have to find an explanation for this situation. The truth [words indistinct] which we make out is the way power is structured. I am always reading reports, press dispatches, and a great deal of analyses that say the Honduran Government is undergoing a crisis. According to these analyses, the Honduran Government will collapse. It never does, and the crisis continues.

What have we come up with in ideological terms? We think power in Honduras rests on two pillars: The U.S. Embassy and the Armed Forces. The Liberal Party, which you represent, is simply the government, the administrative (?part). That enables us to adopt a flexible stance that does not seek revenge, although the top Honduran officers have become wealthy with the (?contras') presence in Honduras. Although the United States is chiefly to blame for the bloodshed in that country, we believe the Honduran Army also shares reponsibility. [end recording]

Government Arrests Mothers Committee Leader

PA0809194088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1857 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Report by Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez]

[Text] This is last-minute news. Marta Lila Cruz Toruno, secretary general of the committee of mothers of Nicaraguan political prisoners, has been arrested by Sandinist state security agents, Radio Impacto learned a few minutes ago.

Cruz Toruno was arrested last night when she was returning home. Yesterday morning, the Sandinist police sent her a written citation, which Mrs Cruz Toruno did not receive. When she was returning home from her job at around 2000, state security agents, using a civilian vehicle, arrested her and drove her to an unknown location.

Panama

Solis Willing To Hold Church-Sponsored Dialogue

PA0909215888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2122 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Panama City, 9 September (DPA)—Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, said today that he is willing to participate in a national dialogue under the auspices of the nation's churches in order to overcome the Panamanian crisis.

Solis Palma said: "We can discuss whatever the churches want to discuss. We have always been open to dialogue as a means of solving Panama's problems."

He pointed out, however, that the only condition the government stipulates to talk with the opposition is that "all participants act like true Panamanians and not like enemies of the homeland." He added: "I will not sit down and talk with an enemy of Panama."

The Catholic, Orthodox, Methodist, Baptist, Anglican, and Lutheran Churches, which comprise the Ecumenical Council, for 2 weeks have been trying to have the Panamanian Government and the opposition start talks to solve the political, social, and economic problems that have been plaguing Panama for the past 15 months.

On Printing Currency

PA1009001588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2244 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 9 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—[Passage omitted] Regarding an executive branch proposal to issue $100 million worth of checks and bonds to face the problem of a lack of currency produced by Panama's economic crisis and the U.S. blockade, Manuel Solis

Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, said last night at a meeting with a delegation of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees that "the medicine could be worse for the patient than the disease."

Members of the government's economic team have objected to the proposal. According to Solis Palma, "it has to be studied, because the economy is more complex than one could ever imagine." He said that he does not agree with "many ideas of the government's economic team," but that he "cannot fail to acknowledge the fact that its members know how the country's economy works." He noted that it must be realized that a "new paper currency would not be used exclusively by a particular group and that it must be accepted by the community as a whole or it will simply not work."

Solis Palma explained that if paper currency is issued, its backing cannot come from the National Bank of Panama funds retained in the United States as a result of the sanctions the United States applied on Panama in March to put the economic crunch on General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime. "We cannot do that," Solis Palma said, "because that money belongs to the Panamanian people. What we can use as backing is the revenue we have due from taxes the U.S. companies have not been paying to Panama because of a decision by Mr (Ronald) Reagan. We can use as backing the money due from the use of the canal," the president noted.

Panama's currency is the balboa, which is equal to the U.S. dollar. Panama does not print paper money, and the dollar circulates freely and legally in this country.

"If we saturate the market with checks," the president said, "we could be forcing public employees into selling those checks for much less than their face value."

Solis Palma said that for "at least 3" of the 6 months he has held office—following the overthrow of Eric Arturo Delvalle, whom Washington still recognizes as president—"Panama has been struggling to avoid its downfall, to survive. The (U.S.) aggression has had terrible consequences."

He noted: "It was not easy to pay the salaries of public employees at a time when the payroll was twice as much as the revenue collected by the state." He explained: "There were times when we had a payroll of 57 million balboas and the state had collected only 37 million."

Restrictions on Bank Deposits Extended 6 Months

PA1109143288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Sep 88 p A-1

[By Chief Editor Juan Carlos Duque]

[Text] The National Banking Commission has ordered the extension for an additional 6 months of bank time deposits. These time deposits were extended by means of Article 4 of Resolution No 8-88 of 28 March 1988 and Article 1 of Resolution No 25-88 of 2 June 1988, "because the conditions that made the extension of time deposits necessary persist."

According to Resolution No 34-88 of 31 August 1988, it became apparent during National Banking Commission meetings that "it is necessary and advisable for the time being to continue certain conditions on time deposits" in order to safeguard the interests of the depositors and the ordinary operation of the banking system.

The regulation excludes local and foreign time deposits made after 18 April 1988, when banks were allowed to resume handling deposit transactions. These deposits will be subject to the normal regulations previously approved for them.

For bank accounts that existed as of 3 March 1988, the resolution stipulates that total or partial payment of an account holder's debts owed to the bank by debiting the account holder's time deposit account will not be restricted.

The authorization to acquire or purchase certificates of deposit or foreign investment deposit certificates with time deposits will be extended.

In accordance with Resolution No 34-88, the interest earned on time deposits that were extended in accordance with Article 1 and the interest earned on any other time deposit will be excluded from the 6-month extension.

Official Urges U.S. Airline Route Cancellation

PA0909211988 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 9 Sep 88 p 2

[Article by Roberto Rodriguez]

[Text] Air Panama Director Cesar Rodriguez has said that while Air Panama is experiencing its most serious economic crisis in the past 10 years, two U.S. companies are using his airline's routes from Panama to Miami. This results in a yearly profit of $60 million.

Rodriguez outright urged the government to "cancel" the Eastern and Pan Am flight routes as they represent a flight of capital from Panama.

He also said that those companies do not pay taxes to Panama as they are heeding the economic aggression against our country. In addition, they take $60 million out of the country.

Meanwhile, Air Panama cannot fly to the United States, in a flagrant violation of the reciprocity of flight routes. However, a Panamanian citizen named Juan B. Sosa is using the funds from Air Panama's clearinghouse, headquartered in New York, even though he is not a member of the airline's Board of Directors.

Rodriguez insisted on canceling the flight routes of the U.S. airlines and on reorganizing the routes through means that are being studied. The purpose of this is to take advantage of this resource and prevent the collapse of a national company.

According to Rodriguez, his company's economic situation is the worst it has been in recent years. One must consider that the company enjoyed boom periods that private citizens used to their own advantage.

Role in Costa Rican Factory Explosion Denied

PA1209000288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 11 Sep 88 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 10 September]

[Text] The Panamanian Government categorically rejects the biased reports by international news agencies that seek to link the Panamanian Government to the explosion and destruction of a coffee processing plant in Coto Bruz, Costa Rica, near the border with our country. The plant is owned by Jose Manuel Echevers, a fugitive of Panamanian justice who is accused of drug trafficking.

The false and reckless allegation that the coffee factory was attacked by Panamanians is completely groundless and plays into the hands of those forces that are attacking us and that are trying to create resentment against Panamanians in the neighboring country of Costa Rica.

It is a proven fact that the Panamanian Government is making every possible effort to maintain good relations with Costa Rica, particularly at the border area, which is a sensitive area used by antisocial elements, criminals, and terrorists as a base from which to launch destabilizing actions against the Panamanian Government.

Our own investigations indicate that the action against the fugitive Echevers' property is closely linked to the armed holdup of the Banco Exterior branch in David, Chiriqui, on 30 July 1988, which left two Costa Ricans dead and two arrested. We would never interpret this criminal action as implicating the Costa Rican Government in criminal actions carried out by elements operating outside of Costa Rican territory.

Panama City, 10 September 1988

Exiled Opposition Leaders on Crisis, Noriega

PA1009043588 [Editorial Report] San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish at 1204 GMT on 8 September is monitored in progress carrying a 20-minute report by Panamanian journalist Omayra Correa with recorded excerpts of her interviews with exiled Panamanian opposition members Julio Dominguez; Aurelio Barria, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture; and Roberto Eisenmann, director of LA PRENSA.

Dominguez refers to the preparations for the 1989 elections in Panama and states that "elections cannot be held without freedom of the press, without freedom to participate in meetings, and without opening closed radio stations." He adds that "it is childish to believe the appropriate electoral atmosphere currently exists" in Panama. Dominguez likewise states that the only solution to Panama's economic, political, and social crisis is to recognize who has really won the elections and to turn over the Presidency to that person.

Correa quotes a survey published by the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, which reveals that "32.2 percent of Panamanian businesses will be able to continue operating 1 year from now" but the rest cannot survive much longer. The survey says that food and agriculture production has slightly increased, but "they are still well below 1987 levels." Referring to sales, unemployment, income, and expenses, the survey indicates that "67.8 percent of the businesses will have to close down within 1 year" if the economic crisis continues unabated. Correa adds that the unemployment figures have increased considerably in recent months, and the percentage will increase even more by year's end.

Barria refers to the survey and says it accurately describes the situation in Panama, which he says resembles the United States' great depression. He adds that the business sector's future looks gloomy because those who control the country "do not care if Panama's economy is being bled to death." Barria adds that the crisis will worsen even more, "society will lose respect for the law, and chaos and violence will mark the struggle for survival." He deplores that many talented Panamanian professionals had to flee the country because "the country's economic problem is the result of a great political crisis, corruption, and the dictatorship that rules our country." Barria says the people will find a destroyed economy when they have the opportunity to rebuild their country. He adds that they will need lots of aid from democratic countries to rebuild Panama once the "nightmare" concludes.

Correa states that the Panamanian Human Rights Committee sent her a report that states: "On 16 March, a military faction rebelled against Panamanian dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The rebellion failed and, according to some sources, about 120 military officers were sent to jail. The Panamanian Human Rights Committee was able to gather a list of the top-ranking officers who are still in Noriega's jails without a proper trial. According to our reports, the following officers have been tortured in a cruel and inhuman way: Colonel Leonidas Macias; Majors Nicolas Gonzalez, Cristobal Fundora, Luis Carlos Gonzalez, Aristides Valdonedo, Enrique Quezada, Jaime Benitez, and Jose Serrano; Captains Humberto Macea, Milton Castillo, Francisco Carrera, Francisco Alvarez, and Alberto Soto; Lieutenants Renato Famiglietti and Luis Alberto Gordon; Second Lieutenants Geronimo Guerra and

Aristides Nunez; Sergeants Fernando Gongora, Raul Garcia Pinzon, and Luis Carlos Montenegro; and Corporal Domingo Cerrud." The document states that every effort has been exerted to attain a legal trial for these soldiers, but these efforts have failed, and the officers' relatives have been warned not to seek their release. Correa also talks about the prisoners' situation, repression of their families, and promises to reveal further information in the near future.

Correa then broadcasts a recorded excerpt of General Noriega's interview with a U.S. Spanish-language television station.

Eisenmann derides Gen Noriega's statement about the banks and says it is the first time that "someone who claims he is the leader of a country proposes a return to the past." Eisenmann adds that Gen Noriega's said the banks are not needed, thus showing his lack of respect for Panama, the 8,500 Panamanians who work in those banks, the business sector which works with the credits granted by those banks, and the middle class which became a vigorous, creative, and constructive force to develop the country.

Asked about Gen Noriega's statement that Panama will return to the barter system used in the 16th Century, Eisenmann says this is a return to the dark ages because even our Indians had their own monetary system. Furthermore, Eisenmann says, "Gen Noriega does not realize that the Panamanian people really want to barter him and his narco-military system for our traditional system of democracy with justice."

Columnist on U.S. Plan To Send Herrera Hassan

PA1009144688 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Sep 88 p 4

[From the "Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Let Them Come; We Are Waiting"]

[Text] If we were not aware of the journalistic seriousness of our colleague Jorge E. Ramirez, we could have mistakenly assumed that the information he provided in his "Fausto's Mail Box" column, which is carried by the newspaper MATUTINO, was complete "madness" and that he was humoring his readers, among whom I am one of the most avid.

The report picked up by "Crazy" Ramirez, however, reveals—as Ramirez says—the stupidity of President Reagan, who informs us by telex of the blows he is planning to give to Panama. A U.S. television network—following its usual pattern of preparing and conditioning U.S. public opinion—has created or invented a new military leader, who—serving Reagan's own interests—would be sent on a criminal and cowardly mission against his own country.

The information is clear: Former Panamanian military man Eduardo Herrera Hassan is offering money to former members of our Armed Forces, mercenaries, and stateless Cubans, who never had the courage to enter Cuba and believe that the Yankee support will flow readily once they reach our coasts.

To make the report appear somewhat objective, the television station said that the version of the plan they were reporting had been confirmed by a high-level CIA official, who reportedly was concerned about the predictable failure of the plan. That is very true. In Panama, they will bite the dust of defeat regardless of how much training and logistical support they receive from their Yankee masters. Not only that, the prophecy of a Panamanian patriot, who over 20 years ago said that the Panama Canal would the tomb of imperialism, will be fulfilled.

President Reagan's plan should not be taken as a joke. We have said that the months remaining before the U.S. elections are critical for his administration, because a direct, armed intervention—in this case with armed Panamanian groups, who would find a place to set up a government—to create a new Grenada would be a propaganda resource for George Bush's campaign.

In addition, the Reagan administration's political experts know that time is running out. They know that they can no longer go on with the fiction of recognizing the puppet Eric Arturo Delvalle and that they are making fools of themselves before the international community. They know that if they continue with this policy, the commitments they have with other world powers will have no credibility.

All plans to destabilize our country have been exhausted. They have been unable to overthrow the government through traitors, who have been used to create the political crisis. They have not been able to overcome our people's resistance, even though they have employed new kinds of aggression, such as their economic sanctions. Those sanctions are intended first to provoke a crisis and then to incite a violent social explosion. The use of Herrera Hassan and the other military straw men who have joined him in his treasonous activities falls within this final phase. Let them come! We are waiting for them here and are standing firmly, without taking a single step backward. They will pass to their offspring their disgraced names, which they have sullied a thousand times over by serving an exploitive foreign nation.

Argentina

CGT Calls General Stoppage in Buenos Aires

PY0909150988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1115 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (NA)—A stoppage called by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) will be held today, between 1200 and 2000 in Greater Buenos Aires. CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini and Humberto Volando, chairman of the Argentine Agrarian Federation, have been confirmed as the main speakers at the rally, which will be held at the historical Plaza de Mayo.

Yesterday Ubaldini stated that Peronist presidential candidate Carlos Menem "cannot refuse to greet the crowd," and he might even say a few words "if asked."

The CGT call for a mobilization and stoppage has received the support of most unions, of some business organizations that represent small- and medium-size enterprises, and of almost all political sectors of the opposition, except for the Democratic Centrist Union and the Movement for Socialism, whose differing position prevents them from joining the stoppage.

This 12th general stoppage, called by the CGT to repudiate the socioeconomic policy implemented by the government of President Raul Alfonsin, has encountered problems in its organization because after reducing the stoppage to only 8 hours, several unions rejected the CGT board's suggestions.

For instance, the railroad signalmen's union will begin the stoppage at 0000 today and it will last for 24 hours. This position contradicts the CGT proposal of reducing the railway union stoppage to a 6-hour strike from 1200 to 1800. This decision was made by the National Railways Union and the Railways Related Unions to facilitate the transport of workers to the rally at 1400 at Plaza de Mayo and their return home afterwards.

The Motor Transport Workers Union will stop activities from 1200 to 2000. This will take most buses out of circulation except for those buses driven by their owners.

The Association of Airline Pilots [Asociacion de Pilotos de Lineas Aereas APLA] has refused to join the strike, although the other airline unions will join the strike, and for this reason, the Argentine and Austral Airlines will implement an emergency plan. [passage omitted]

Strike Ends With Violence

PY0909231188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2138 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (TELAM)—The site where the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] demonstration was being held became totally deserted after some incidents which occurred during CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini's speech.

Policemen had to use tear gas against the rioters who were making trouble at the North Diagonal and South Diagonal Streets at the intersection with Avenida Mayo and Avenida Hipolito Yrigoyen. To escape the tear gas, the people had to seek refuge in nearby places.

The police action caused a stampede in which many people were injured. The injured people, whose total number is yet undetermined, were assisted at first aid stations near the main speakers' stand.

The incidents, which took place near the main stand on North Diagonal and South Diagonal Streets, started a few minutes before 1800, while Saul Ubaldini was addressing the people. The groups that started the riots still have not been identified.

During the incidents, several people were injured, windows of several stores on Avenida Mayo were broken, and several vehicles parked nearby were set on fire.

Police forces are now patrolling the area near the Plaza de Mayo.

Police Repress Rioters

PY1009135388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0238 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (TELAM)—According to initial reports last night, 20 policemen and a larger number of civilians were injured in clashes among opposing groups during the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] demonstration that took place this afternoon. Police reports say that about 30 people were arrested as a result of the riots.

Ricardo Pareja, chief of the Second Police Precinct, confirmed the number of injured policemen, and added that according to initial reports, several police vehicles, armored cars, and a police ambulance were also damaged. The wounded policemen were immediately taken to the Churruca hospital.

Questioned by journalists about possible deaths that occurred during the demonstration, Pareja said that he had no information on that subject.

Pareja reported that Federal Judge Nestor Blondi is investigating the case. Meanwhile, it was learned from police sources that the arrested rioters, which could total more than 30, are being held in the 1st, 2d, 22d, and 14th Police Precincts.

After the riots that took place near Plaza de Mayo many relatives of arrested people and lawyers from several political groups went to the police stations to learn of the situation of the detained rioters. The rioters destroyed and looted the places in front of the City Hall, and along the Avenida de Mayo and Julio Roca Avenues and San Martin Street.

Police sources reported late last night that more than 20 police members were taken to the Churruca Hospital and added that their condition is not serious.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0216 GMT on 9 September adds: "Federal Police Chief Juan Angel Pirker told EFE an hour earlier that he had received reports about the deaths of at least four people as a consequence of the riots."]

30 People Arrested, 60 Hurt

PY1009040888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Recent dispatch reports state that 20 policemen and a larger number of civilians were injured during the incidents provoked by antagonistic groups at the CGT rally this afternoon. Unconfirmed information obtained from police sources indicate that 30 people were arrested during the disturbances.

The number of policemen who sustained injuries of various degrees was confirmed by the chief of the Second Police District of Buenos Aires, Ricardo Pareja. He added that several police cars, armored cars, and a police ambulance were damaged during the melee, according to preliminary evaluations. The injured policemen were immediately taken to the Churruca Hospital.

During the evening hours, 64 people received medical attention at the Algerich Hospital of Buenos Aires for minor injuries and cases of asphyxia. After 2330 only 2 of those people remained at the hospital, although for no serious medical reason.

CGT Calls for Another Strike

PY1009005688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0006 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (TELAM)—Tonight Saul Ubaldini reported in a news conference that the Executive Council of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] has decided to call for a 24-hour strike on 12 September in defense of the people's rights.

Ubaldini said that the police actions during the incidents in Plaza de Mayo, while he was delivering a speech, were repressive and worse than that of Pinochet.

Ubaldini added that the report which states that the incidents began among the demonstrators is a lie. He said that the CGT will release a report on the events.

Asked about the statement made by Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia that the police intervened after the windows of the Modart men's shop were broken and the store looted, Ubaldini said: Nosiglia probably owns the Modart shop.

Government on New Strike

PY1009040288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0310 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (NA)—Tonight the Executive Branch urged the leadership of the General Confederation of Labor, CGT, to "reconsider the measure" of force proposed for Monday, 12 September, and at the same time it pointed out that "The violent episodes that took place this afternoon disrupt the climate of coexistence and domestic peace that the government and the democratic political parties have struggled to strengthen."

The Executive Branch also warned that these incidents "can only benefit small antidemocratic sectors."

In a communique issued through the Interior Ministry, signed by Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, the government asserted that "The responsibility that the leaders have under such circumstances demands an attitude that is in keeping with the peoples' needs" and noted that "in that sense nothing justifies a new strike throughout the country that will only continue to hinder development without strengthening any rights or liberties."

At the same time the communique invites "The political parties and all social forces to work for domestic peace and the CGT leadership to review its decision to call a new general strike."

The document notes that "During the present administration the CGT has staged 12 general strikes, exercising the full right to strike and always enjoying all guarantees provided by the Constitution."

The communique points out that "During the almost 5 years that have elapsed the country and especially the workers have exercised the civil rights and liberties to an extent seldom enjoyed during previous governments."

The document states that "The episodes of violence that took place this afternoon disrupt the climate of coexistence and domestic peace that the government and the democratic parties have struggled to strengthen and they can only benefit small antidemocratic sectors."

The communique was issued shortly before midnight by the Interior Ministry.

Freedom To Work Insured

PY1109025088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0146 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Sep (DYN)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said tonight that "The government will guarantee in every way possible work during the strike ordered by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] on 12 September. He added that the CGT is "only seeking a confrontation."

Lopez stated that during a cabinet meeting in the Olivos presidential residence, Alfonsin discussed the possibility of declaring the CGT strike illegal, but the idea was discarded because "The government will not be driven to a confrontation."

The executive branch called on the CGT leader "to reconsider." The government believes that the strike called for 12 September "conspires against the freedom of coexistence for the majority of Argentines."

Lopez also announced that Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli will speak to the nation at 2030 on 11 September to explain the ministry's position on the CGT 24-hour strike.

Minister Tonelli on Strike

PY1209013588 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Labor and Social Security Minister Ideler Tonelli address to the nation over national radio and television hook-up—place not given; live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening. The General Confederation of Labor [CGT] has ratified its decision to hold a new general strike tomorrow, Monday, 12 September. This will be strike number 13 since the constitutional and democratic government was installed. According to a paid advertisement published today, this decision was made because of the unusual and fierce attack perpetrated by the repressive forces.

The CGT has thus interpreted the police action during the rally held last Friday, 9 September, as something planned and directed against the workers who had gathered at Plaza de Mayo and, especially, against those responsible of organizing the meeting.

It also insinuates that the government sided with certain interests, which it does not identify, to create a provocation, to silence the voice of protest, and to discredit the political parties that supported the strike and rally.

Had such a plan really existed beforehand, it would have suited the government—in keeping with that alleged plan- - to attribute the violence, looting, and vandalism to the organizers of the event and the political parties that supported the strike and rally.

The evidence recorded by the media has proven that the government did not do such a thing. A few hours after the incidents took place and after an exhaustive analysis of all data collected, the interior minister clearly pointed out the origin of the violent incidents, and this conclusion was ratified by the communique issued last night and endorsed by the president of the nation.

We are certain that, within the wide ideological spectrum of those who attended the rally, there were members of violent and disruptive groups, alien to the workers who wished to express their point of view peacefully and to the leaders who, with the same desire, supported the rally.

The members of the disruptive groups incited the demonstrators to engage in fist fighting; they also perpetrated acts of vandalism and looting, as the telvision channels clearly gave testimony.

This objective evaluation was made public immediately and was personally transmitted by the interior minister to political and union leaders.

The predictable, prudent, and legitimate response from those leaders, who should assume the social responsibility entrusted to them by their followers, should have been to condemn those antidemocratic groups; to isolate them politically because they are common enemies of the democratic system; and to demand that an investigation be conducted by the independent legal channels currently available in our Republic to identify those responsible.

However, the response was to declare a general strike against the government, and to make very serious charges and analogies, which because of their absurdity, cannot be taken seriously. This decision contributes to the successes of the provocation, which was directed against the organizers of the meeting as well as the government. The purpose was to destablize and divide democracy. The decision to call another strike, objectively speaking, contributes to this perverse objective. [passage omitted]

The government will continue supporting collective negotiations between workers and employers to reach agreements on salaries and working conditions, in a climate of freedom and responsibility.

Within this framework, union leaders who are really concerned over the situation of workers they represent will be able to improve their labor relations through negotiations.

This peaceful and constructive labor relationship contrasts with the strike, which will only cause damage to workers and the society as a whole.

We are convinced that the measure adopted by CGT leaders, and supported by absurd and insulting arguments, is not within the legitimate right to strike provided for by the national Constitution.

However, a formal declaration regarding the call for a general strike would mean that, despite our intentions to seek the peaceful achievement of our essential objectives, we are letting ourselves be dragged into the confrontations which we have been incited.

Moreover, declaring the strike illegal could have serious consequences for workers who individually comply with the unfounded measure. They must not be the victims of hasty decisions, although they cannot be prevented from losing their salaries with which people are playing so thoughtlessly.

We would rather appeal to moral force and to people's responsibility so that tomorrow everyone will fulfill their obligation to defend their liberty, which is protected legally by the state.

Reporting to work tomorrow must not and will not be interpreted as political support for the government. Far from that, it will represent an affirmation of personal free will. We would never dare to propose that workers defy the union because of a legitimate conflict of interests. We have never done this and will never do so. We are respectful of the unions, and there is good evidence of this.

However, the strike scheduled for tomorrow does not have the legal basis that would require workers to respect it. The call for a strike is based on nonexistent facts or on extremely exaggerated arguments; it is filled with intolerable insults that have nothing to do with political convictions or with the workers' interests.

In view of such a thoughtless and authoritarian decision, the conviction to defend one's own personal future and freedom must prevail, regardless of our own ideology and regardless of the critical opposition to the government. Good evening.

Rumors of Alleged Military "Crisis" Spread

PY0909121688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0225 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (NA)—Today a congressional source said that the pamphlets exalting the image of Aldo Rico that were thrown this morning at the II Army Corps Command based in Rosario and the rumors about an increase in these "lightning acts" performed by Rico sympathizers—Rico is being held at the Magdalena jail—are aimed at "destabilizing" the Army command and creating problems for the government.

The source asserted that President Alfonsin, Carlos Menem, Cesar Angeloz, and Antonio Caffiero have discussed some aspects of these "actions," performed by military and civilian groups interested in "creating an atmosphere of agitation," to mark "the CGT [Workers General Confederation] strike."

Regarding the meeting Alfonsin held with Angeloz and Peronist leaders, presidential spokesman Jose Lopez said yesterday: "We cannot talk about a military crisis because there are no military problems in Argentina."

Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi will preside over the main ceremony to celebrate Infantry Day. He will attend the ceremony to be held at the "Lieutenant General Pedro Aramburu" School, at Campo de Mayo, which was the center of the Holy Week rebellion.

Caridi's decision to attend this ceremony also gave birth to rumors of possible acts of indiscipline to be staged at the school by officers.

Gen Caridi said in Mar del Plata today, however, that the situation in the Army "is entirely normal." He praised President Alfonsin's decision to appeal the writ of amparo ordering the reinstatement of Major Hugo Vercelloti.

The congressional source said that this writ of amparo, and Di Pasquale's appearance before a civil justice "are aimed at creating difficulties for Caridi's command."

Meanwhile, reports from Cordoba indicate that "lightning acts" may also be staged in support of the head of the Holy Week and Monte Caseros rebellions. Government sources, however, did not hesitate to point out that these rumors "are psychological campaigns launched exactly when the CGT scheduled a strike."

Regarding the "fronts of action" being created by civilian sectors that support Rico, the sources did not discard the possibility that the report on an alleged shipment of weapons to Iran were "disloyal" rumors spread by these groups who want to "destroy the government's prestige."

The pamphlets thrown early this morning in front of the II Army Corps Command stated: "Rico is the hope of a future and justice for the country."

This act ["volanteada'] was interpreted as a reaction to the comments recently made by II Army Corps Commander General Juan Mabragana, who criticized Rico for having said that an eventual victory of the Peronists might weaken constitutional order.

Court Grants 3 Generals Due Obedience Benefit

PY1009012088 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Cordoba (NA)—Yesterday the Cordoba Federal Court of Appeals granted the benefit of the Full Stop and Due Obediance laws to retired Generals Jorge Maradona, Juan Pablo Saa and Mario Lepori in the cases against them for human rights violations committed during the military dictatorship.

The ruling includes the immediate freedom of Maradona, so that the only officer still under arrest in that case is retired General Luciano Benjamin Menendez, who was sent to the local hospital for a psychiatric exam yesterday. This exam is demanded by the Military Justice Code, but, Maradona refused to take it.

Bolivia

Last Cabinet Reshuffle 'By Late September'

PY1009123388 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Reportedly, a general reorganization of the cabinet will occur by late September. This move will allow ministers to run for the presidency, for the Senate, and for the Chamber of Deputies.

According to a report by political sources, at least ten of the ministers will be replaced. Many of these will run for the next elections.

Current Planning and Coordination Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada, the MNR presidential candidate, has been the first to tender his resignation. Rumors say that Fernando Romero, current chairman of the Emergency Social Fund, will replace Sanchez de Losada.

Another minister that has allegedly tendered his resignation is Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal. He will be replaced by current Bolivian Ambassador to London Eduardo Arauco.

The sources pointed out that this will be the last reshuffle of President Paz Estenssoro's cabinet. Sources believe that Interior Minister Carlos Duran; Transportation Minister Andres Petricevish; Labor Minister Alfredo Franco Guachalla; Health Minister Carlos Perez; Urban Matters Minister Franklin Anaya; Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo; and Presidency Secretary General Walter Zuleta are also willing to resign.

The sources, however, did not want to comment on the names of the new ministers who will probably serve President Paz to the end of his term in office in August 1989.

Within the framework of the cabinet reorganization, the government economic team will also be modified.

The goal of these modifications will be to use the Bolivian Central Bank [BCB] as an instrument to facilitate the reactivation of the productive sector. This shows that the BCB has not to date functioned the way the government would like.

BCB Chairman Javier Nogales tendered his resignation more than 1 month ago, but so far, it has not been accepted.

According to rumors in the political sector, the new BCB chairman will be Jacques Trigo, who is currently director of the SAFCO [Administrative and Financial System for Government Control—Sistema Administrativo y Financiero para el Control Gubernamental]. Ramiro Ortega, who is currently TGN [expansion unknown] under secretary, would be appointed BCB general manager.

Belgium Agrees To Cancel Overdue Interest

PY0909223888 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] The Belgian Government has agreed to donate the overdue interest on the debt that Bolivian owes Belgium and to allow Bolivia to use such funds for local contributions to development projects.

The overdue interest on the debt owed to Belgium amounts to approximately 185 million Belgian francs, or $5 million.

This information has been provided to PRESENCIA by TGN [expansion unknown] Under Secretary Ramiro Ortega Landa, who explained that Belgium has agreed to grant the same treatment to the interest falling due until the end of 1993.

An official Belgian mission arrived in Bolivia on Monday, headed by Paul Frix and Luc Sanders, who met with Bolivian officials in an effort to adopt a final position on the foreign debt problem—especially bilateral government- to-government foreign debt—through new and creative solutions.

The talks began in May 1988 when Ortega traveled to Brussels, where he maintained that the industrialized countries should increase their cooperation with Bolivia, not only by rescheduling its foreign debt, but also by allowing the country to invest in development projects with the funds earmarked for paying the interest owed on the debt.

According to the Paris Club negotiations—which ended last year—Bolivia will have to pay the interest on the rescheduled debt, which amounts to approximately $30 million annually.

Based on its need for financial resources, the Bolivian Government considered the possibility of paying the interest in bolivianos and of allowing these funds to return to the country to create a development fund. The idea was proposed at a meeting of the consultative group of the World Bank in Paris at the beginning of 1988.

Ortega, who attended the last Paris Club meetings, said: We want to make the same proposal during a new meeting with this group (of creditor countries) at the end of October.

The agreement reached with Belgium, Ortega said, provides good background, and we hope other countries will support it.

The Belgian Government, he said, has adopted this attitude, not only because it understands the crisis we are going through, but also because of the obvious efforts that the Bolivian Government and people have made to overcome their economic problems and because of Bolivia's international credibility.

Asked about a possible request that the Bolivian debt be forgiven, Ortega said that this measure is not being proposed.

We want to show the international community that Bolivia wants to honor its obligations with responsibility but, in return, we want to receive cooperation, so that the funds earmarked for paying the interest may be used for the development projects that our country needs.

Ortega concluded by saying that Belgium is the first country to have understood the Bolivian crisis and that the other creditor countries are expected to follow this example.

Leftist Party Elects Central Committee
PY0909211088 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Sep 88 p 9

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Oruro, Sep 3 — The Revolutionary Front of the Left-Marxist-Leninist Communist Party [Fri- PCML] held its national congress over the weekend in a public place at 6 de Agosto Avenue in Oruro. During the congress, Deputy Casiano Amurrio, a former presidential candidate in 1978 and a peasant leader, resigned his post on the Central Committee and joined the rank-and-file.

Under the presidency of top FRI-PCML leader Oscar "Zamora, some 150 delegates met in Oruro. The delegates of La Paz, Cochabamba, Potosi, and other districts expressed their dissatisfaction at the way the third FRI-PCML congress was conducted because "no in-depth analysis of the political and ideological situation had been conducted and because of the efforts to create or join an electoral front for the elections scheduled for May. The congress ended early in the morning on Monday with the election of the Central Committee, the first 10 positions of which were assigned to the following party members, who received the most votes: Arnoldo Mendez (Beni), Eddy Acosta (Santa Cruz), Alejandro Torrejon (Sucre), Alberto Montano (Santa Cruz), Bernabe Yupanqui, Jaime Onofre (Cochabamba), Roso Cruz (Santa Cruz). Oscar Zamora Medinacelli got the 8th largest number of votes. He was followed by Jesus Abasto (Llallagua) and Felipe Mena (Cochabamba). The Central Committee elected Oscar Zamora as its first secretary.

Coca Eradication Project Put Into Effect
PY1009033988 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Cochabamba, 6 Sep —As part of the project for the eradication of coca plantations—which is currently being implemented in Chapare, Carrasco, and Arani Provinces—coca plants on some 2,189 hectares have already been eradicated, and the local farmers have received a $4-million compensation.

Eradication Project Schedule [subhead]

The officials in charge of the eradication program have reported that before the end of the year, coca plants on an estimated 4,000 hectares will have been eradicated. This will mean that the local farmers will be paid $8 million. According to the project, each farmer must be paid $2,000 per hectare of eradicated land.

Coca Growers Agree to Project [subhead]

According to a report by the eradication program officials, the coca growers have agreed to reduce their coca plantations and to use the land to produce other crops.

Apparently, only the settlers' leaders oppose the eradication project. The peasant and settlers do not share the same political position. The peasants have agreed to the gradual replacement of the coca crops by other products that may bring about alternative development for this strife-torn tropical region of Cochabamba Province.

Brazil

Sarney: Guimaraes 'Qualifies' for Presidency
PY1009145288 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpts] President Sarney yesterday dedicated the Itaparica hydroelectric plant in Pernambuco State. He pressed the button of the first turbine, which can generate 250 megawatts of electricity. By the end of October, when two more turbines will be working, the Itaparaica hydroelectric plant will generate 750 megawatts of power. President Sarney said in his speech that Itaparica will generate 1,500 megawatts of energy by 1989. [passage omitted]

After dedicating the Itaparaica power plant, President Sarney assured journalists that after he steps down from government, he will not run for any other post. According to the president, his last candidacy was for the Brazilian literary academy.

He also said that it is still very early to begin the new presidential campaign, but he asserted that Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes qualifies for the presidential nomination.

[Begin Sarney recording] I already said that it is very early to start the new presidential campaign. However, Ulysses qualifies for the presidential race.

He is a great Brazilian, a great patriot, and I am sure [words indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Central Bank Announces New $200 Million Loan

PY0909155988 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Sep 88 p 17

[By Milton F. Da Rocha Filho]

[Text] Sao Paulo—Yesterday Central Bank President Elmo Araujo Camoes said Brazil has obtained another $200 million from European banks. Camoes added that this loan will shore up the country's short-term credit line, mainly in the export sector. The note of credit legalizing the entry of the new resources will be made official in the next few days. The new loan was the result of direct negotiations between the Central Bank president and European bankers.

Camoes recalled that the new $200-million loan is in addition to the $75-million loan the World Bank granted for agricultural purposes, within the framework of the program of agriculture stock building currently in process. Camoes stressed that the normalization of relations between Brazil and the international financial market has made possible the negotiation of new resources for the country which might be granted during the last months of the year.

The Central Bank president said there will be a new meeting to discuss the reorganization of the national financial system in Brasilia today. He added that the meeting participants may decide to immediately implement some measures, if they do not need National Monetary Council (CMN) authorization. Camoes did not want to comment on the measures he was talking about because he said he needed to discuss them with the Central Bank Board of Directors first.

Camoes said the important thing is that what we are implementing is a reorganization of the system and not a financial reform. It is also worth recalling that the World Bank must advance $500 million before we can start implementing it and that the reorganization is a very important step in reducing the costs of the national financial system. The Brazilian society as a whole will benefit from the modernization process because it will pay less for better services, the Central Bank president said.

Minister Criticizes Computer Market Policy

PY0909141988 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Sep 88 p 17

[Text] Brasilia—Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes yesterday criticized the Brazilian computer market reserve policy because it hinders competition within the domestic market. He said that it also raises the prices of Brazilian products in relation to foreign ones. He has a good example of such a case within his own ministry: After holding an international bid, Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] will buy 35,000 km of fiber optics from the Phillips Company of the Netherlands for $4.6 million (1.047 billion cruzados), which is one fifth of the domestic market price. Fiber optics are replacing cables in the telephone system.

"This shows that the market reserve policy is accessible to only half a dozen people," Magalhaes said. [sentence as published]

After holding an international bid in 1983, Telebras signed a contract with ABC-XTAL [not further identified] for the exclusive supply of fiber optics for 5 years. This year, ABC-XTAL has been unable to supply 50,000 km of fiber optics ordered by the Communications Ministry. Since the rest of the national companies were also unable to supply the product the ministry has been forced to import.

ABC-XTAL was unable to comply with the contract term to supply 17,000 km of fiber optics between March 1986 and December 1987 because of difficulties stemming from the cruzado plan. Telebras received 17,000 km of fiber optics in July 1988.

"We resorted to the international market, and those of us who supported the market reserve policy had a surprise. Some Brazilians are getting rich on the market reserve policy at the expenses of Brazilian people," Magalhaes said.

The communications minister is sure that the market reserve policy is stimulating computer smuggling. He believes that the Special Secretariat for Information Science (SEI) cannot properly control the smuggling of computers and their components in the national market.

Police Arrest Protesters at Military Parade

PY0909192188 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] The Military Police yesterday repressed a demonstration that was held by small groups of protesters who attempted to get close to the platform from which President Sarney was watching the 7 September Brasilia military parade.

Police used clubs on the protesters and later collected their banners. The protest groups comprised students, militants of the Green Party, and Rondon Project [program in which students provide cultural and technical assistance to Indians] officials who jeered at the president for the lack of funds alloted to education, for the devastation of the Amazon region, and for threatening to drop the Rondon Project. "What kind of country is this?" asked one of the banners that was waved almost in front of the platform where the president was standing.

The violence occurred far from Sarney, who was surrounded by his ministers. The police arrested eight people.

Navy Planning To Upgrade Seacat Missile

PY1009191988 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULOin Portuguese 9 Sep 88 p 5

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Excerpts] The Brazilian Navy will modernize its Seacat shipborne surface-to-air missiles that were purchased from Great Britain 15 years ago. The missiles are deployed on Brazil's six most modern warships, the Niteroi-type frigates, which are also British-made. The program, which has three phases, will be implemented by the Orbita-Sistemas Espaciais company under an agreement with the Navy Research Institute (IPQM). This information was provided by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Co.] Superintendant Ozilio Silva on 8 September in London, where the Farnborough air show is being held. Embraer owns 40 percent of the shares of Orbita-Sistemas Espaciais; ENGESA, Specialized Engineers, Inc., owns 40 percent of the shares; and the rest of the shares are owned by a group of minority shareholders. The Seacat is used by the navies of 16 countries, and that is why "the development of a technological modernization kit [preceding word in English] may be welcomed on the international market," Silva said.

The Seacat, produced in Ireland by Short Brothers, is a missile that is "reliable, simple, and above all cheap, something that makes the extension of its useful life span possible," IPQM Director Admiral Mario Braga said. The Brazilian Navy is not spending anything in the first stages of the program, because the institute and Orbita's technicians are working together using the two organizations' facilities to study the feasibility of the project. The result of this study will determine if any specific contracts are signed in 1989. [passage omitted]

The purpose of the Navy program is to provide their ships with a modernized version of the missile to cover a 15-year period and make the planning of the general reequipping of the Navy for the year 2005 easier. The IPQM does not want to change the design of the missile, but has established some essential goals, such as the modification of the television tracking system and the installation of a vertical navigation sensor. The detonators will also be changed. The most probable selection is an electromagnetically activated detonator or a high-sensitivity laser [preceding word in English]. This device will help the Seacat "see" a larger target and explode at a pre-programmed distance, destroying the target plane in the air by the force of the missiles's fragmentation.

Chile

Pinochet's Motorcade Stoned; 12 Wounded

PY1209040588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0336 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Sep (EFE)—Twelve people sustained bullet wounds after the incidents that took place in Santiago today when President Augusto Pinochet's entourage was attacked with stones by residents of the Cerro Navia shantytown.

According to information obtained by Radio Cooperativa, 10 wounded people were taken to a first aid post, while the demonstration, barricades and bonfires continued.

The incidents started when Pinochet's entourage was leaving the Cerro Navia neighborhood gymnasium, where a political rally in support of his candidacy in the upcoming plebiscite had been held in the afternoon.

According to witnesses, the "Command for the No-Vote," composed of 16 parties of the democratic opposition, was holding a mock plebiscite.

Suddenly, a few minutes before General Pinochet's entourage went by, a Carabinero water cannon barged in firing water. This dispersed the members of the opposition, knocked down loud speakers and tables that had been set up for the mock plebiscite, and annoyed all those at the site.

According to the same sources, the presidential motorcade, which included some members of the media, was attacked with sticks and stones as it was driving along several blocks where barricades and bonfires with old tires had been built.

According to the police, members of the security forces fired their weapons into the air in order to clear the way, and Carabineros intervened with their water cannon and tear gas bombs.

Later on, according to information given by inhabitants of the area, Carabineros and members of the security forces carried out a police operation in the zone.

Early in the evening, some lighted candles were placed in several sectors of Santiago, along some streets, as a sign of mourning "for the victims of the 1973 coup."

However, the call by the opposition to reject General Pinochet and his regime with a "the banging of pots and pans," apparently was not supported by the people because nothing was heard during a brief tour through the city at 2100 (time set for the bangings).

A little before midnight, the police had not yet confirmed reports that some people had sustained bullet wounds, nor had they reported on detentions.

Car Bomb Defused Near Pinochet Speech Area

PY1109184588 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1542 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Sep (AFP)—Today a police squad defused a powerful dynamite [as received] charge near the hall where President Augusto Pinochet was scheduled to deliver his official speech on the 15th anniversary of the coup d'etat through which he came to power.

The bomb was inside a blue car parked on Quito Street in downtown Santiago, approximately 200 meters from Diego Portales building, which is the headquarters of the Government Junta and where General Pinochet was going to deliver his speech.

The bomb contained more than 30 kg of ammonium gelignite [as received], which according to a police source is more than enough to inflict considerable damage and kill many people.

Former Interior Minister Returns From Exile
PY1009175788 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0409 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 9 Sep—Today Hernan del Canto, former interior minister during the Popular Unity [UP] Government that was headed by Salvador Allende, returned to Chile after almost 15 years of living in exile.

Upon his arrival at the Santiago International Airport, Hernan del Canto was met by investigative police officers who told him there was an arrest warrant for him in view of charges raised by Congress [as received].

After talking with the police, Del Canto was set free on condition that he appear before the 2d Criminal Court.

Upon his departure from the airport, Del Canto was greeted by relatives, friends and Socialist Party representatives.

In a brief statement to the press, he said he intends to live in Chile and he has decided "to struggle for the human rights of Chilean men and women, and to restore the normalcy that Chile has not experienced for many years."

In addition to Del Canto, several former cabinet members and high-ranking officials of the Allende government returned to Chile during the first weeks of September. Among them are: Jose Cademartory and Pedro Vuskovic, former economy ministers; Jacques Chonchol, former agriculture minister; Jaime Suarez, government secretary general; and Isabel Allende, youngest daughter of the late President Allende, [passage omitted]

Foreign Observers Invited To Oversee Plebiscite
PY0909142188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The opposition has officially announced that 215 foreign inspectors and professional politicians, who are nothing more than demagogues, will invade Santiago. Their mission will be to control the 5 October plebiscite.

Opposition hosts call them observers, but they first need to be informed about the Chilean electoral system otherwise they will have to supervise the far reaching process without any previous knowledge on how we Chileans are preparing for it. If this were not enough, arrangements have been made for a tour of several cities in the country and visits to the electoral offices themselves. Their conclusions therefore are already prejudiced and the national politicians who have invited them, and insisted on their visit, are aware of it.

UN Refugees Representative Praises Exile's End
PY1009152188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Gordon Lennox, regional representative of the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, conveyed to the foreign minister the satisfaction of this organization at the government's decision to end the exile problem.

Lennox made this statement at the end of a meeting with Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia at the Foreign Minstry.

[Begin Lennox recording] We have conveyed to the foreign minister our satisfaction at the government's decision to lift the prohibition against exiles. This is an important step forward in the search for a solution to the situation of Chilean refugees. [end recording]

Gordon Lennox recalled that the duty of the UNHCR is to help the voluntary return of refugees and added that he had analyzed, with Foreign Minister Garcia, the implementation of additional measures to help the return of Chilean refugees to the country.

The UN official said his visit to Chile comes within the framework of the regular tour of regional countries that UNHCR officials make to further the organization's purposes. He added that his current visit is particularly important because of the government's decision to end the exile problem.

Police Prefect on New Orders for Exiles
PY1009032688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] All exiles who have lost their nationality and have returned to the country will be considered Chileans from the moment they arrive in Chilean territory. This statement was made by Ramon Silva Diaz, investigative prefect and special unit chief, based on new orders issued by Brigadier General Fernando Paredes, director general of the investigative police.

Silva made it clear that the exiles should follow a very simple procedure to normalize their situation, adding that those who were sentenced to prison terms and who chose to go into exile will not meet any obstacle in entering the country even if they have not yet served their sentences.

Silva said that the international police will only search the houses where these people will live and will report their return to the country to the appropriate court. He added that so far, 19 of those who have returned to Chile are in this situation.

FPMR Decrees Truce Until 'End of Plebiscite'

PY0909164988 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1630 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 9 Sep (EFE)—According to LA EPOCA today, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) has decreed a truce that will last until the end of the plebiscite on 5 October.

According to the newspaper, during a news conference yesterday, the FPMR announced: "We will consider ourselves free to act the day after the plebiscite." The news item is followed by a picture depicting two alleged FPMR leaders and an armed man.

According to the Constitution promulgated by Pinochet in 1981 [as received], the single candidate elected by the Armed Forces commanders, in this case Pinochet himself, must be approved or rejected in a plebiscite.

If the majority supports the Yes-vote, Pinochet will remain in power for a new period extending from 11 March 1989 to 11 March 1997.

If the majority supports the No-vote, new direct elections with the participation of other political sectors will be held in 1990. Pinochet would remain as president until that date and will continue to be Army commander for another 4 years. [passage omitted]

FPMR Vows 'Offensive,' Pinochet's Death

PY1009025388 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0048 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 9 Sep (EFE)—Today the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] announced that it will launch "a devastating guerrilla offensive" after the 5 October plebiscite, which will mark the end of the FPMR truce.

The ultraleftist movement announced that it will execute several Chilean figures, among them General Augusto Pinochet and prosecutor Fernando Torres, who investigated the attempt on the president's life in September 1986.

This information was supplied to Jorge Uribe, correspondent of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR in Santiago, by the FPMR national chief, Commander Jose Miguel during a long interview.

Uribe told EFE that the FPMR chief stressed that their "patriotic war" will resume after the 5 October presidential plebiscite, after which—the commander said—there will be "a great disappointment that will increase the contradictions and will cause repression to be stepped up."

He believes that the only strategy that can be adopted in the struggle is that of a nationwide patriotic war, which he regards as "a difficult process" during which the Chilean people "will join the ranks of the combatants."

As for the plebiscite, the FPMR leader said that "Within the Chilean Army there is tension similar to that of the days before the military coup" of 1973.

The FPMR believes that "The regime has waged the political struggle like a war. The dictatorship has designed its policy of war from a military viewpoint, and the FPMR will launch a devastating offensive if the Yes-vote wins the plebiscite."

For the FPMR leaders, "If the No-vote wins, which is practically impossible, the FPMR will also let its voice be heard." "The only thing we will agree to is the immediate end of the regime," the commander said.

Leftists Stage Authorized Peaceful Raily

PY1109024088 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0036 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 10 Sep (EFE)—For the first time since the 1973 military coup that brought the current military regime to power, the Chilean left today staged an authorized public rally to reject the chief executive, General Augusto Pinochet.

The rally, which was attended by approximately 40,000 people waving red flags and placards and shouting anti-government slogans, lasted for 3 hours and took place in a festive, orderly mood.

The rally was held at the large Parque de la Bandera, on the southern end of Santiago. It was in this same square that Pope John Paul II addressed the emotion filled residents of Santiago's poorest sectors during his visit in April last year.

Many popular performers and musical groups entertained the crowd. The keynote speaker was Anibal Palma, vice president of the United Left [IU] coalition, who paid tribute to former socialist President Salvador Allende, who was killed during the 1973 coup.

The IU, which sponsored the rally, consists of the PCCh, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the orthodox faction of the Socialist Party (led by Clodomiro Almeyda), the United Popular Action Movement (MAPU), the Christian Left (IC), and other leftist forces.

Closing the meeting, IU youth leader Gonzalo Rovira requested that all those present at the rally disperse in an orderly fashion and urged everyone not to respond to acts of provocation. Rovira described the rally as "the most important one staged by the Chilean left in the past 15 years."

Many Carabineros (the militarized police) personnel were deployed in the area, but they remained far from the park.

CUT Calls for Day of Protest on 15 Sep

PY1109033588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2345 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 10 Sep (EFE)—Today the executive council of the Central Labor Union (CUT) called a national day of protest for Thursday, 15 September, to reject the banishment of its leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez and the imprisonment of Moises Labrana.

The three CUT leaders were sentenced by the Chilean courts on charges of instigating violence when they organized a general strike last year to reject the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

The court ordered that Bustos be banished for 541 days to the township of Parral, 350 km south of Santiago, and that Arturo Benitez be banished to Chanaral, 970 km north of Santiago.

The call for the day of protest, which was read by CUT Deputy Secretary General Alfonso Latroph, urges the people to protest "by arriving late to their workplaces, by keeping their children out of school, and by discontinuing work for several minutes to read the CUT message."

The CUT message adds that petitions for the release of the three CUT leaders should be submitted to each regional intendant.

The day of protest should conclude at 2100 on Thursday "with the banging of pots and pans to protest the measures adopted by the Chilean regime."

CUT Third Vice President Sergio Aguirre said this protest is designed "To make the government lift the sanctions against the CUT leaders and against journalists who were tried and imprisoned for political reasons."

The CUT, which was created last month, consists of important unions, federations, and regional and national confederations. Most of the leaders are members or supporters of the opposition Christian Democratic Party.

Human Rights, No-Vote Supporters Demonstrate

PY1009004688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Incidents are taking place right now at the foot of the monument to the Heroes of Iquique beside the Mapocho River between the Independencia and Recoleta bridges.

The reason for these incidents is that some 100 youths belonging to various human rights organizations have marched from (Vina del Mar) up to this site and have gathered at the foot of the monument, where they are shouting slogans against the government and distributing pamplets supporting the No-vote during the upcoming plebiscite.

Special Carabinero forces have arrived and are dispersing the demonstrators. [passage omitted]

Due to the heavy traffic in the area, Carabineros are having great difficulties dispersing the youths, who continue regrouping and shouting slogans against the government.

A new demonstration is taking place right now at the Plaza de Armas, in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral. This is one of the many demonstrations staged today in downtown Santiago by members of various human rights organizations.

This time a column of youths has marched along Ahumada Boulevard in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral carrying a banner demanding an investigation of the death of Jose Manuel Parada, one of the three beheaded leaders.

However, the demonstration is being broken up by a Carabinero van that is usually parked on one of the corners of the Plaza de Armas. The van charged against the demonstrators and hurled tear gas bombs.

A tear gas launching vehicle and two vans have just arrived, but the demonstrators continue to regroup after being dispersed.

Police End Demonstration

PY1009154388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 9 Sep (EFE)—The Chilean police today used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the demonstration which was a part of the Human Rights Caravan that planned to end its demonstration in Santiago. The Caravan started 5 days ago.

Special Carabineros dispersed the groups that were forming near Mapocho train station, north of this capital, using tear gas and water cannons. The crowd was trying to participate in a demonstration organized by human rights organizations.

Groups of people, who shouted slogans against the regime of General Augusto Pinochet, in power since 1973, gathered at Mapocho station park for 2 hours to demonstrate.

Radio Cooperativa has reported that at least eight youths were arrested by the police forces.

The demonstration comes nearly a month before the 5 October plebiscite to decide whether Pinochet will continue as president of Chile until 1997.

The Caravan started on 4 September, in Valparaiso Port, 119 km northwest of Santiago, and it was organized by 60 social and political organizations.

According to the Chilean Human Rights Committee, 15,405 people were murdered, 2,206 are missing, and 164,000 were forced into exile, during the 15 years of Pinochet's regime.

Humanist Leader Says Electoral Service Mistaken
PY1009033288 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The president of the Humanist Party, Tomas Hirsch, said that the Electoral Service's decision to cancel his party's registration as a legal political party was a mistake.

According to preliminary information, the decision was made because the most recent Humanist Party election to elect its leaders was allegedly not witnessed by the notary appointed by the Electoral Service as established by the law. [passage omitted]

Hirsch added that the party's lawyers have already gone to the Electoral Service to solve this problem. Should the party registration be cancelled, the Humanist Party would not be authorized to appoint poll watchers for the upcoming plebiscite.

Bomb Attack Near No-Vote Command Leader's Home
PY0909150788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1350 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 9 Sep (EFE)—Today several unidentified people attacked with firebombs the house next to Andres Zaldivar, coordinator of the No-vote command, and former president of the Christian Democratic International.

The criminals used a car with covered license plates, and apparently confused Zaldivar's home with the other.

According to witnesses, the attack took place at 0010 (0410 GMT), when the criminals hurled firebombs at Zaldivar's neighbors home, damaging two cars.

Zaldivar said: "This is a case of irrational people who are desperate to try to impose their ideas by force and violence."

"I do not doubt that this attack was meant for my house. This is the 10th time in 4 months that my house was attacked by people who carry Pinochet banners and signs," Zaldivar said.

University Students Attack Finance Minister
PY1009123088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi escaped unharmed from a verbal and physical attack perpetrated by troublemakers inside the Concepcion University campus.

According to official reports released by the Concepcion Carabineros prefecture, the incident took place at approximately 1230 when Buchi, accompanied by Finance Minstry Regional Secretary Soledad Rosende and her secretary, was walking near the campus hall. Buchi was not being escorted by the police at his own request.

The reports say that upon learning about the presence of the Finance Minister, a group of approximately 200 students began to boo and insult him.

One of the students threw mud at Buchi and attacked him with a stone, but the minister managed to dodge it. The report adds that in view of this incident, the officials left the campus. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Turbay Ayala To Assume Liberal Party Leadership
PA1209042488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Report by Alejandro Montejo; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Today former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala arrived here from Miami, after representing the country as ambassador to the Vatican. Turbay Ayala has arrived to assume the Liberal Party's presidency and hopes to make important contributions toward achieving a lasting peace for the Colombian people and the unity of the Liberal Party. [passage omitted]

[Turbay Ayala] "I obviously must fulfill the mandates of the national convention, which has honored me by appointing me party president. I must complete the process to attain the unity of the Liberal Party, a task begun by the previous leadership." [passage omitted]

[Montejo] "Do you think there are hidden enemies who might foil the government's peace process?"

[Turbay Ayala] "Yes, that is obvious. However, I believe that if we have a clear idea of what peace really means, no other alternative will look more satisfactory or more promising to the Colombian people. Can you imagine what would happen if we can consolidate and strengthen peace? Colombia would actually attain greater status within the Latin American community." [passage omitted]

ELN Unilaterally Declares Cease-Fire

PA1009033888 Paris AFP in Spanish 2223 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The pro-Cuban Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrilla group, which is responsible for having blown up the main Colombian oil pipeline this past Tuesday, unilaterally declared an indefinite cease-fire today.

The leaders of the subversive organization, which kidnapped and is still holding five Colombian geologists, today established contact with Bishop Dario Castrillon to inform him of their cease-fire decision. Bishop Castrillon heads the Democratic Coexistence Commission.

Castrillon said that the ELN will release two of the geologists this week and that the other three will be released next week.

The ELN also reported that Tuesday's attack on the 784-km long Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline was carried out at the conclusion of an unsuccessful 60-day cease-fire, the purpose of which was to produce a peace dialogue. [passage omitted]

80 FARC Rebels Reportedly Attack Village

PA1009001888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The Army and police are chasing 80 FARC guerrillas who attacked Minca, a village on the slopes of Santa Marta's Sierra Nevada mountain. The rebels arrived at dawn and fought with 10 policemen. The police barracks was destroyed. To make it difficult to chase them, the guerrillas blew up a bridge and went deep into the jungle.

It has been unofficially reported that the attackers kidnapped an unspecified number of policemen and civilians. The Defense Ministry, however, has reported that only two men are missing.

Paraguay

Argentine Radio Claims Stroessner Dead

PY1009155388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1540 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Mendoza, 10 Sep (NA)—This morning radio station L.V.10 Radio Cuyo interrupted its usual transmission to report that President Alfredo Stroessner died in Asuncion, after a prostate gland operation last night. Radio Cuyo did not mention the source of the report and the radio announcer only read the brief report which also stated that many Paraguayan Government officials have requested asylum in the Argentine embassy.

Industry Minister Denies Stroessner's Death

PY1009180488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1740 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Sep (TELAM)—Today Delfin Ugarte Centurion, the Industry and Commerce minister, said that President Alfredo Stroessner is in very good health, and that his health condition can be described as being 100 percent.

At the end of a ceremony in honor of Father Carlos Antonio Lopez at the national mausoleum in Asuncion, Ugarte Centurion thus denied rumors reported by foreign news agencies stating that Stroessner had died.

This is what has been reported to TELAM by Radio Primero de Marzo in Asuncion.

Released From Clinic

PA1009181788 Paris AFP in Spanish 1731 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Asuncion, 10 Sep (AFP)—President General Alfredo Stroessner was discharged today after being hospitalized for 11 days in the Plastic Surgery and Burn Clinic of the National Institute of Social Welfare (IPS), a ranking government source told AFP. Stroessner, who will be 76 in November, underwent prostate surgery, recovered normally, and was discharged by the doctors, according to the source, a cabinet member who chose to remain anonymous.

The ranking official smiled when AFP told him that a report had circulated in Argentina about the president's death. He said: "That is an irresponsible report generated, no doubt, by persons who do not like him."

Persistent rumors that Stroessner's health is very poor have continued to circulate in opposition political and social sectors.

Ambassador Says Health Good

PY1009194888 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1905 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Sep (NA)—Today Paraguayan Ambassador to Argentina Miguel Bestard said that President Alfredo Stroessner "is in good health and at his home," thus denying a report about the president's death.

The Paraguayan president has not been seen in public in the last few days, a circumstance that generated rumors about his death after a surgery.

Radio station LV 10 Radio Cuyo this morning interrupted its usual broadcast to read a report stating that Stroessner had died in Asuncion after a prostate gland surgery.

The report read by Radio Cuyo did not mention any source, and it added that many Paraguayan government officials had requested asylum in the Argentine Embassy in Asuncion.

Bestard assured NA that Stroessner "is in perfect health, according to what Foreign Minister Rodney Elpidio Acevedo told me on the phone."

"Stroessner is in his home, according to what Radio Nacional del Paraguay—which has not denied today what I am saying now—has reported," Bestard concluded.

To Return to Office 12 Sep

PY1109004288 Asuncion RPC Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Today high government officials said that President Alfredo Stroessner is in very good health and that he never stopped working on government issues; thus they denied false reports released abroad on the health of the president.

The officials said that President Stroessner will go as usual to the government palace on 12 September to take care of government matters, and to receive people as planned on his agenda.

Officials also said that it is regrettable to see the foreign media, especially Argentine, report rumors without checking with reliable and responsible sources. They added that the presidential protocol office is working on the official program for Stroessner's upcoming visit to Nationalist China to attend the celebration of Double Ten Day [10 October]. Stroessner's departure for Taiwan is scheduled for early October according to sources.

Visits Sports Club

PA1109181988 Paris AFP in Spanish 1732 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Asuncion, 11 Sep (AFP)— President Alfredo Stroessner visited the Puerto Sajonia Sports Club in Asuncion at noon today, according to a report confirmed by AFP sources.

Stroessner was followed into the sports club by two jeeps carrying Army bodyguards. He climbed out of his car without help and walked toward a railing that separates the club from the Paraguay River.

The septugenarian head of state was released yesterday from the Plastic Surgery and Burns Section of the Paraguayan Institute of Social Security (IPS), where he spent 11 days following prostate gland surgery.

Those present at the club were surprised at Stroessner's unexpected visit because his state of health had been the subject of much speculation in political and diplomatic circles.

The president walked slowly and looked like someone who had been hospitalized. He was carrying a hat and wore a beige shirt.

Minister Reassures People About Future

PY1009171588 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1620 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The Limpio [small town outside Asuncion] Colorado Party precinct organized a political event to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the foundation of the Colorado Party. Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion was the main speaker of this occassion.

[Begin Ugarte recording] Because we live in harmony, the Paraguayan family continues to live without the worries and uncertainties of what may happen the next day because peace is sustained and ensured by a great majority party: The Colorado party, under the careful watch of the fatherland soldiers, the members of our glorious Armed Forces, who today work for progress and the well being of our people are not involved in armed revolts as in other darker moments of our history.

Peru

Interior Minister Denies Reported Lootings

PY0909193688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Admiral Juan Soria Diaz has categorically denied lootings, or disruption of public order, in Lima. He added that his ministry will provide support to the Lima City Council for the control of staple sales.

[Begin recording] [Soria Diaz] There have been no lootings or closing of doors. Lima is absolutely calm. Some violent outbreaks have taken place, namely in the universities, but without importance or repercussions.

[Unidentified reporter] There have been some reports that some businesses have been closed in the markets.

[Soria Diaz] Well, some businessmen could have closed to fix their new prices, but this does not mean that they are closing their businesses or anything like that.

[Reporter] Are the operations that are being carried out yielding any good results?

[Soria Diaz] Well, the operations are allowing us to verify that there is absolute calm in Lima. [passage omitted]

Military Delegation Leaves for Persian Gulf

PY1109022288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The technical mission of the Armed Forces that, along with officers of other countries, is going to the Iraqi-Iranian border to preserve the peace left today with the promise to make every effort to honor Peru.

The mission, which is headed by Colonel Luis Bustamante Castro, will remain in the Persian Gulf for 6 months on its peace mission.

Official Wounded in 'Terrorist Attack'

PY0909121588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Governor (Teodoro Sanchez Casso) of the Independencia municipality was seriously wounded in a terrorist attack at the 4-km marker of the Tupac Amaru Avenue. His wife was also wounded.

(Sanchez Casso) was immediately taken to the Cayetano Heredia Hospital where doctors are trying to save his life. The criminal attack occurred at 2230 last night near the intersection of the Tupac Amaru and 28 de Enero Avenues of the Independencia District.

Three unidentified individuals shot (Sanchez Casso) and his wife at close range in their shop located at that intersection. (Sanchez Casso) was shot seven times. His wife (Gregoria Leon Melendez) was shot in her left arm. [passage omitted]

Antidrug Organizations To Meet in Lima

PY0909143788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0428 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 8 Sep (EFE)—Today it was reported here that the 2d meeting of the Chiefs of the National Antinarcotic Organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean region will take place in Lima from 12 to 16 September.

The meeting is being organized by the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) and its purpose is to analyze the illegal traffic of narcotics, to adopt more efficient measures against drug trafficking, to outline personnel training programs, and to discuss a draft convention against drug trafficking.

This meeting, which was proposed by the United Nations during the inter-regional meeting that took place in Vienna (Austria) in July 1986, will be attended by nearly 100 police delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean region as well as European and U.S. observers.

16 Drug Traffickers Arrested; Cocaine Seized

PY1209034788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A total of 42 kg of cocaine base paste, estimated to be worth more than $42 million, were confiscated by members of the Narcotics Division of the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP], in a serious blow to drug traffickers.

The cocaine was found in a house at kilometer 5 and ½ of the main highway. General Fernando Reyes Rocas, director of the PIP, will inform us about this operation.

[Begin recording] [Reyes] The PIP Narcotics Department has called a news conference for 1300 at the Aramburu complex to report 42 kg of cocaine hydrochloride near Lima. A total of 16 persons have been arrested.

[Reporter] Are they foreigners or Peruvians?

[Reyes] They are all Peruvians, but with international links.

[Reporter[[question indistinct]

[Reyes] This is a different group than the one arrested 20 days ago. [passage omitted]